

The Way the Land Goes



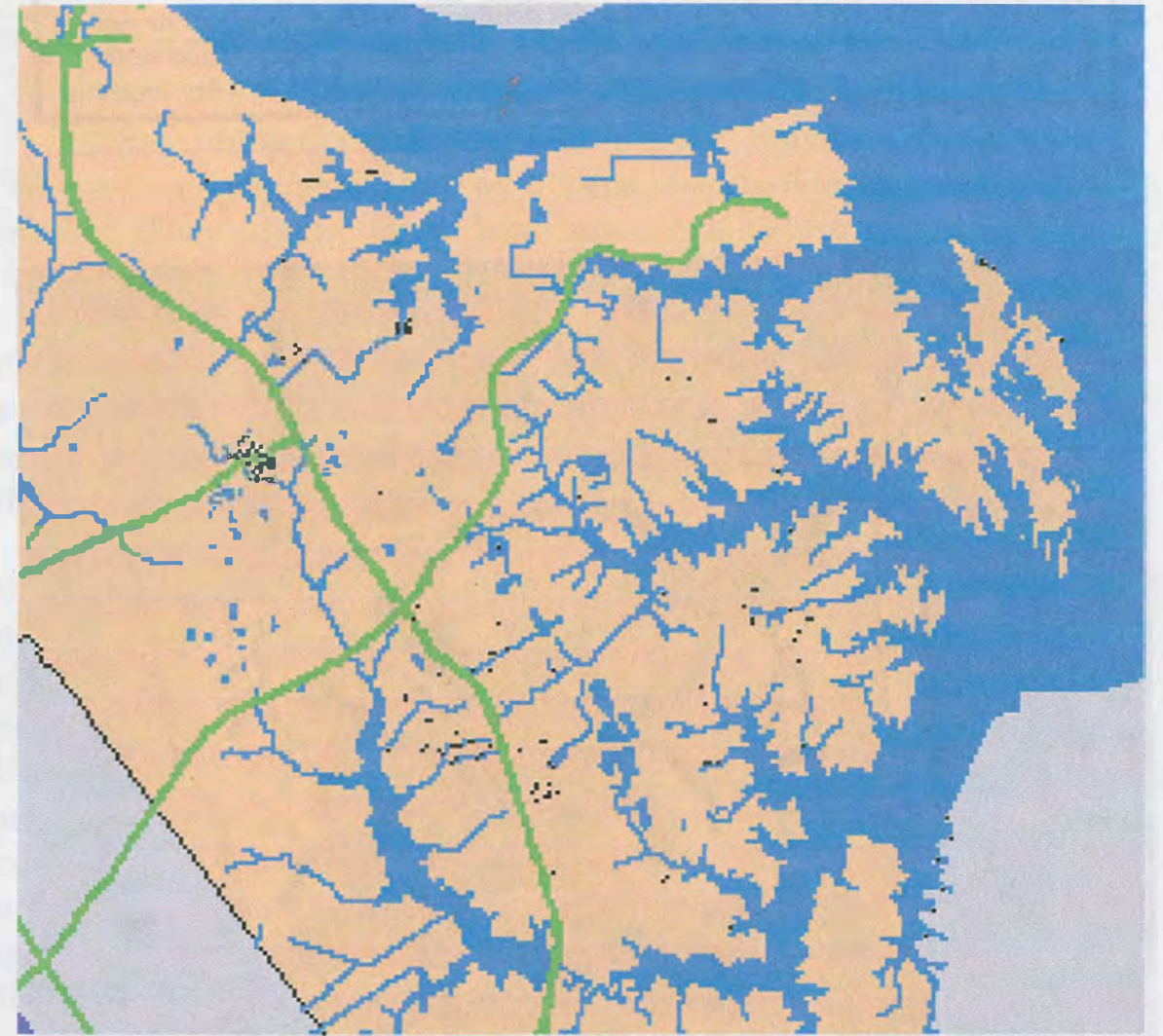
History in Virginia's York County

Crab Neck, Cockletown Corridor, Harris Grove,
Tampico, York-Hampton Highway,
Dawson - Cheadle Farms

Compiled by
David G. Stall



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Cheadle - Dawson Farms**

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CAUTION

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Preface

After completion of the book *Back Creek Plantation*, some fellow "Seafordians" suggested that additional history of the area be placed in print. They advised that a large amount of history would disappear within another generation. Because *Back Creek Plantation* treated chiefly the land and families within the land area identified in the title, some "Crab Neckers" proposed that history of areas surrounding the plantation be the subject of another book, areas such as Seaford, Hornsbyville, Harris Grove, York-Hampton Highway and the Grafton Corridor.

These areas are the subjects of this new book. The goal behind this book (as with *Back Creek Plantation*) is to compile and place in print previously unpublished records, augment existing records with maps and photographs, build stories from bits and pieces of facts, and sequence this mixture in a reasonable chronological order. Existing publications or works under development for other surrounding areas were not included, for example, history concerning Goodwin Neck (Dandy) and Fish Neck (Dare). These areas are referenced in some places, but only to the extent to round out the subject. The reader is encouraged to secure publications for these other areas.

The level of detail in each of the geographical areas addressed in this book is by no means exhaustive. Not all families, early dates, locations and topics are identified or the subject of discussion. Also, the process of gathering information was not exhaustive as in contacting and interviewing all people potentially possessing knowledge. Further, family lineage information is abbreviated to include only those who settled and lived in particular geographical areas and the lineages provided are not exhaustive.

There is always the risk of inaccuracies in facts when compiling a work of this nature. Someone who has knowledge of these subjects may find inaccuracies in some facts. Although every effort was taken to eliminate inaccuracies, inevitably errors in names, locations or

dates will surface because of reliance upon someone’s memory. Nevertheless, the objective has been met, and that is to gather and publish information before it becomes unavailable because sources are no longer available. By providing the book to many individuals, it is anticipated that inaccurate facts will be identified.

One technique that tends to increase accuracy is to include stories written by someone who actually saw, or were living about the time the events took place. Such stories were incorporated within the text and pictures to provide authenticity to the facts. The stories have a box drawn around them. In addition to providing names, locations and dates, these stories supply details about the culture of the time.

Aerial photographs from sixty-five and forty-nine years ago supplied details that confirmed, particularly with magnification, some of the written and oral history. In some cases particular areas were not available, and other cases two or more photos had to be placed together to create a complete picture.

While working on the book, giants were found in Seaford. These giants are not of the type Moses wrote about in the Pentateuch. These giants spent years pouring through the York County records, making handwritten and typewritten copies of the information they assembled. These devoted giants are the likes of Thelma Hansford and Esther Wornom who have spent many hours helping to piece together information for this book. Without their tremendous contributions this work would not have survived.

Appreciation is also expressed to the many others who supplied maps, pictures and information. Appreciation is expressed to Nancy Williams for proofing the text.

David G. Stall Year 2002

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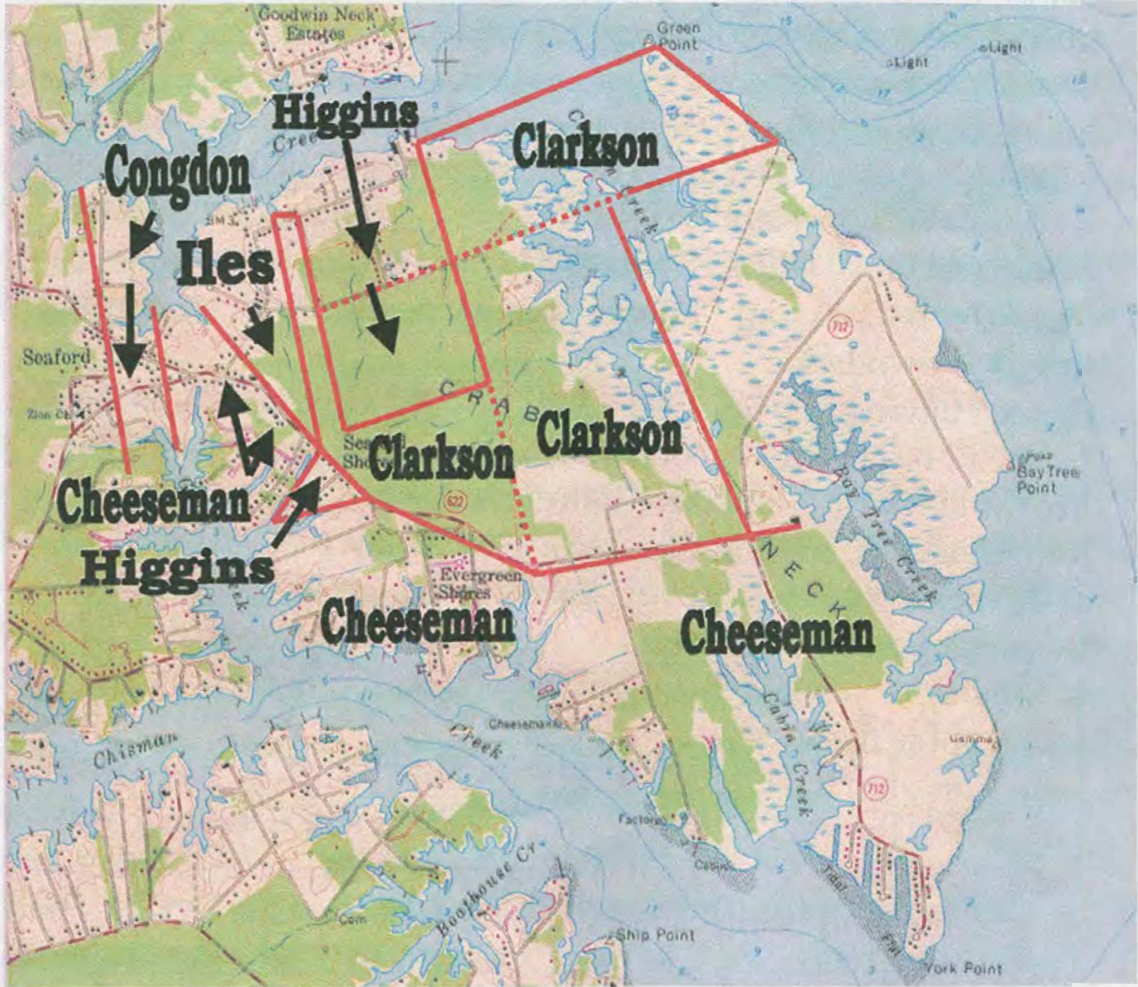
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Crab Neck Plantation Lands

Land Patents 1635 - 1639

The following chart provides the area under discussion in this section and an overview of all the patents on Crab Neck and Bay Tree Neck for 1635 – 1639 overlaid on the 1970 US Department of the Interior Geological Survey Map.



These people were the first landowners within the Crab – Bay Tree Neck area (other than the Native Americans), as identified in *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants 1623-1666*, by Nell Nugent.

“Memories, memories, dreams of love so true;
O’er the sea of memory, I’m drifting back to you.
Childhood days, wildwood ways
Among the birds and bees,
But I’m not alone, for still you’re my own
In my beautiful memories”

Gus Kahn, lyrics
Egbert Van Alstyne, music

Pertinent portions of the applicable abstracts of land patents from Nugent's book are listed below and are arranged by date. The list will begin with Lt. John Cheeseman (Chisman), for it is he who is referenced on the historical marker in Seaford.

- LT. John Cheeseman, 600 acs. Chas. Riv. Co., 21 Nov. 1635. S.E. upon the New Poquoson Riv., N.W. into the woods by Oyster Cr., towards a ridge of land adj. S.W. upon the land of Thomas Hawkins. Later, assigned to Richard Bennett from Capt. John Cheesman.
- LT. John Cheeseman, 200 acs. Chas. Riv., 23 Apr. 1636. E. Sly. upon Chesepeiack bay, Nly. upon the back Cr., W. Nly. upon Cheesemans Cr.
- John Clarkson, 100 acs. Chas. Riv., 23 Oct 1637. On S. side of Willoughbys Neck, N. upon the Cr., E. upon the Baye, S. into the woods & W. upon land of John Thomas ... the 2nd yeare of the plantation of sd. Chas. River.
- Same (John Clarkson). 150 acs., same Co., date & page. Butting upon his own land.
- Georg Higgins, 100 acs. Chas. Riv. Co., 25 Feb. 1638. N. upon the back Cr., bounding on both sides with land of John Clarkson. Provided transportation for John Thomas.
- John Clarkson, 400 acs. Chas. Riv. Co., 7 May 1638. At the back Cr. at the head of his first devdt., running to a br. of Cheesemans Cr., thence E. Sly. three-quarters of a mile until it meete with a Cr. out of the Baye, thence to the mouth of Chews Cr. & thence to the midle of his first devdt.
- John Congdon (Congden), 50 acs. Chas. Riv. Co., 21 Aug. 1638. Nly. Upon the back Cr., S. upon Cheesman Cr., E. upon a br. from the back Cr. comonly called Gwynn his Cr., W. upon the maine woods, the land being called Cooper his Neck.
- Thomas Iles (ILES), 75 acs. Chas. Riv. Co., 21 Aug. 1638. N. upon the back Cr., S. into the woods, E. upon John Clarksons land & W. upon a br. of sd. creek, called Gwyn his Cr. Note: This pattent surrendered up & renewed 2 Oct. 1640.

- Georg Higgins, 100 acs. Chas. Riv. Co., 11 May 1639, 30 acs. butting upon Cheesemans Cr. Wly., bounded on the N. with land of John Clarkson, S. with land of Richard Bennett, running E.S.E. & c. 70 acs. butting upon his first devdt., parallel to sd. Cr., to the poplar branch & thence to the head of Thomas Iles first devdt.

The historical marker located across from Zion United Methodist Church on Seaford Road in the commercial area (downtown Seaford) reads as follows:

"Settlement began here in 1636, when John Chisman patented 600 acres on Crab Neck, a peninsula bounded by Chisman Creek and Back Creek, a tributary of York River. The neck then lay in Charles River Parish in York County, one of the eight original shires created in 1634. A Confederate fortification stood near the narrowest part of the neck in 1862, and during the Civil War Union troops destroyed Zion Methodist Church here. Crab Neck post office was established in 1889; its name was changed to Seaford in 1910."

The historical marker uses the word "patented". A land patent was the instrument by which England conveyed to individuals the legal fee-simple title to land. Any person who bore the expense of his own passage to the colony would be granted fifty acres of land, and would be awarded fifty additional acres for each additional person for whom he paid passage.

Based on the survey map's annotation, it seems Crab Neck begins at a line connecting Goose Creek and the southern run of Back Creek (Shallops Creek) and proceeds east to Bay Tree Neck, which is not part of Crab Neck. Moreover, based on the early records, it seems the Bay Tree area was not part of Crab Neck, but was its own "neck". Bay Tree Neck apparently begins at a line connecting Claxton Creek and Bay Tree Creek.

Chisman

John Chisman

Mid 17th century (1630s) original land ownership (patents) of a significant portion of Crab Neck (Seaford) belonged to Col. John Chisman (Cheeseman). Col. Chisman, a noted merchant, was of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Bermondsea, Surrey County, England. He came to Virginia in 1621 on the ship *Flying Hart*, purchased land, and took up residence in Elizabeth City (Hampton/Kecoughtan). He was among the first to hold land patents in York County, and later, an assumed residence. It is interesting to note that by the time of his second patent, reference is made to Cheeseman Creek instead of Oyster Creek.

As can be seen in the chart above, the patented Chisman land in Crab Neck is, for the most part, that land south of Seaford Road from Bay Tree Creek to Goose Creek and up to the part of the southern branch of Back Creek (Shallops Creek).

It is not certain whether John and Margaret Chisman actually lived on the Seaford land. He may have continued his residence in Hampton. However, the evidence supporting his residence on Crab Neck is as follows:

- He was commissioner (justice) of the York County Court
- Member of the Assembly and Councilor for York County
- Tobacco viewer (inspector) in York County
- On the survey map shown above there is a place called Cheeseman at the end of Presson Road.
- In *Adventures of Purse and Person*, Annie Jester states, "When the area now York County became available for settlement in 1630, the Cheesemans located there".

John Chisman secured the passage of twelve people and then four more to Virginia as connected with the two land patents described above. With a portion, if not all, of these people working the land, it is safe to assume productive agriculture of the plantation.

The location of the plantation manor home is not known for sure, but it may have been at the end of Presson Road on Chisman Creek.

John and Margaret Chisman had a son and a granddaughter, but no further descendants. John and Margaret returned to England before 1661. All their York County land, including Seaford patents, was leased to John's brother, Edmund, for 21 years with the stipulation that, if John and Margaret did not live past the time the lease terminated, Edmund should receive the land and his sons and their male heirs. It is believed that the northern boundary of the Chisman land was a little bit south of Seaford Road from Goose Creek to Bay Tree Creek, and included land between Goose Creek and Shallops Creek.

Edmund Chisman

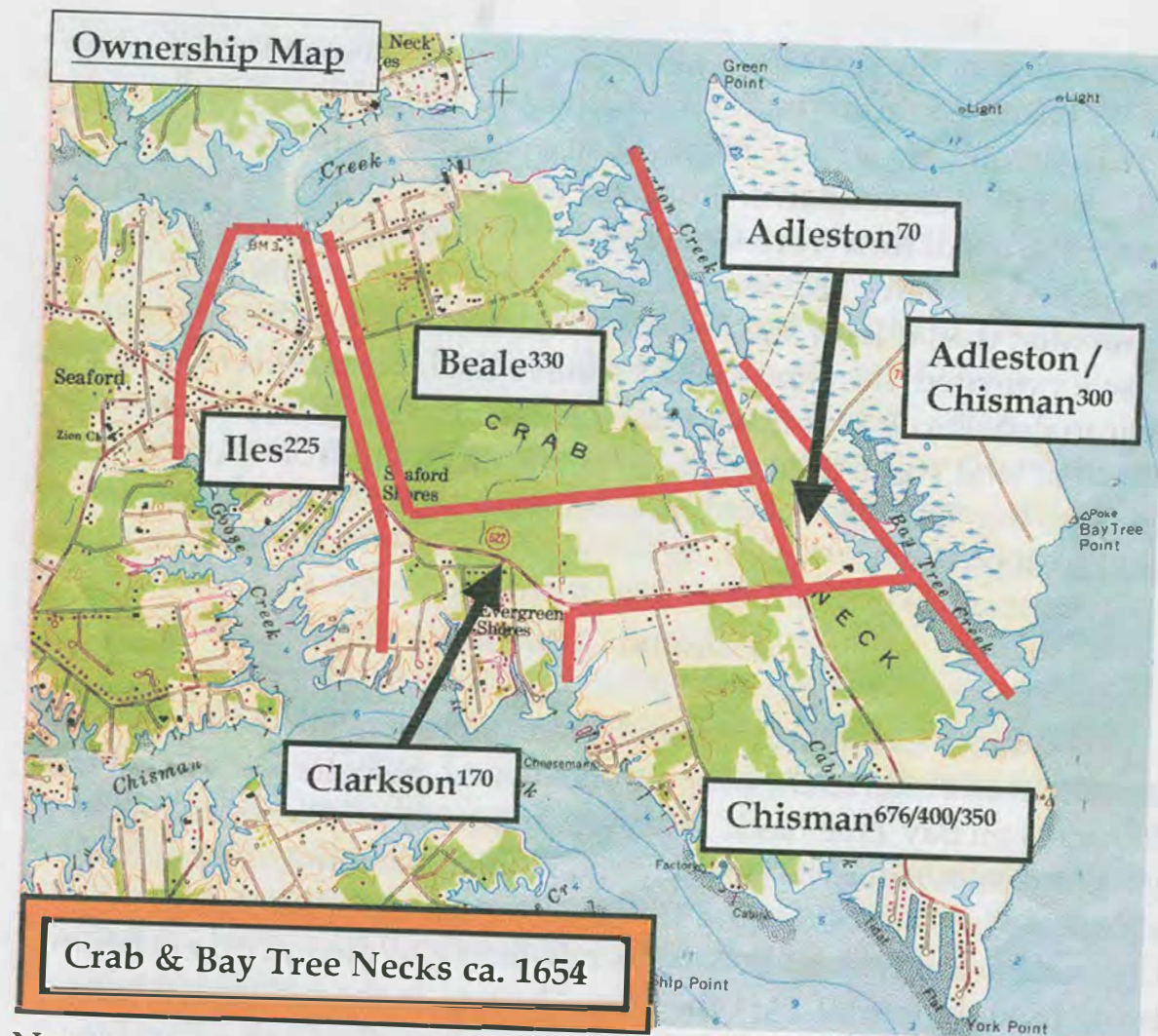
Edmund Chisman, John's Chisman's brother, stayed in the new world. In addition to the property he owned, he patented in 1668 the 300 acres on Bay Tree Neck. This was the same parcel his brother John and John Adleston (see chart above) patented in 1654, but had abandoned. One of Edmund Chisman's sons, Major Edmund Chisman, was involved in Bacon's rebellion and died in prison before being brought to trial. Another son, Thomas, is the son from whom the Chisman family descended and from whom the Crab - Bay Tree Neck land area is traced.

Adleston

John Adleston (Adlestone, Addustan, Adustan, Aduston) was born ca. 1615 in England. He married Joan Trotter and they had one child, Agnes, born ca. 1648. Agnes married John Rogers.

The land patents described in the previous section did not stay the same. Some were sold, some partitioned and sold in parts, and others enlarged.

The following Ownership Maps provide a brief history of subsequent landowners within the Crab - Bay Tree Neck areas.



Notes:

1. Iles original patent (1638) was 75 acres. In 1640 the patent was enlarged to include 150 additional acres (total 225). In 1664, the patent was renewed with location being bounded north upon Back Creek, east by John Clarkson land, and running south until meeting with a branch of Chisman Creek (shown below the bottom of the red line).
2. In 1654 Adleston and Chisman patented 300 acres – Bay Tree Neck – being bound by Adleston (70 acres), Clarkson, Chisman and Beale land.
3. The number 676, for the acres of Chisman, is a puzzle. This number is carried because in 1842 the deed record reports that 676 acres were sold to Edmund T. Wynne. However, approximately 400 acres is estimated by analysis and county geographic information, and, in 1784, Edmund (6) Chisman references his plantation as 350 acres. The author's opinion is that the 676 acres is a summation of the acreage of the Crab Neck farm (434 acres) and the Fish Neck farm (242 acres).

Beale

Thomas and Alice Beale were present in Crab Neck in the 1650s to the early 1700s, and owned a large portion of land including land involved with patents discussed in the previous section. The Beales owned upwards of 3000 acres, but made their home on the Back Creek Plantation. They had at least four children. Mr. Beale suffered an untimely death a short time after July 1671.

The earliest dated written record found that uses the three words "Back Creek" and "plantation" together in the same sentence – as they pertain to an area within Crab Neck – is in the will of Mrs. Alice Beale. Alice Beale died in 1702 or 1703 leaving a will in which the phrase "the plantation on Back Creek about 300 acres" is used. Also, she stated that she desired "to be buried in my garden upon ye plantation I now dwell on and near the grave of my late husband." (These graves may be within the Ironmonger Family Cemetery.)

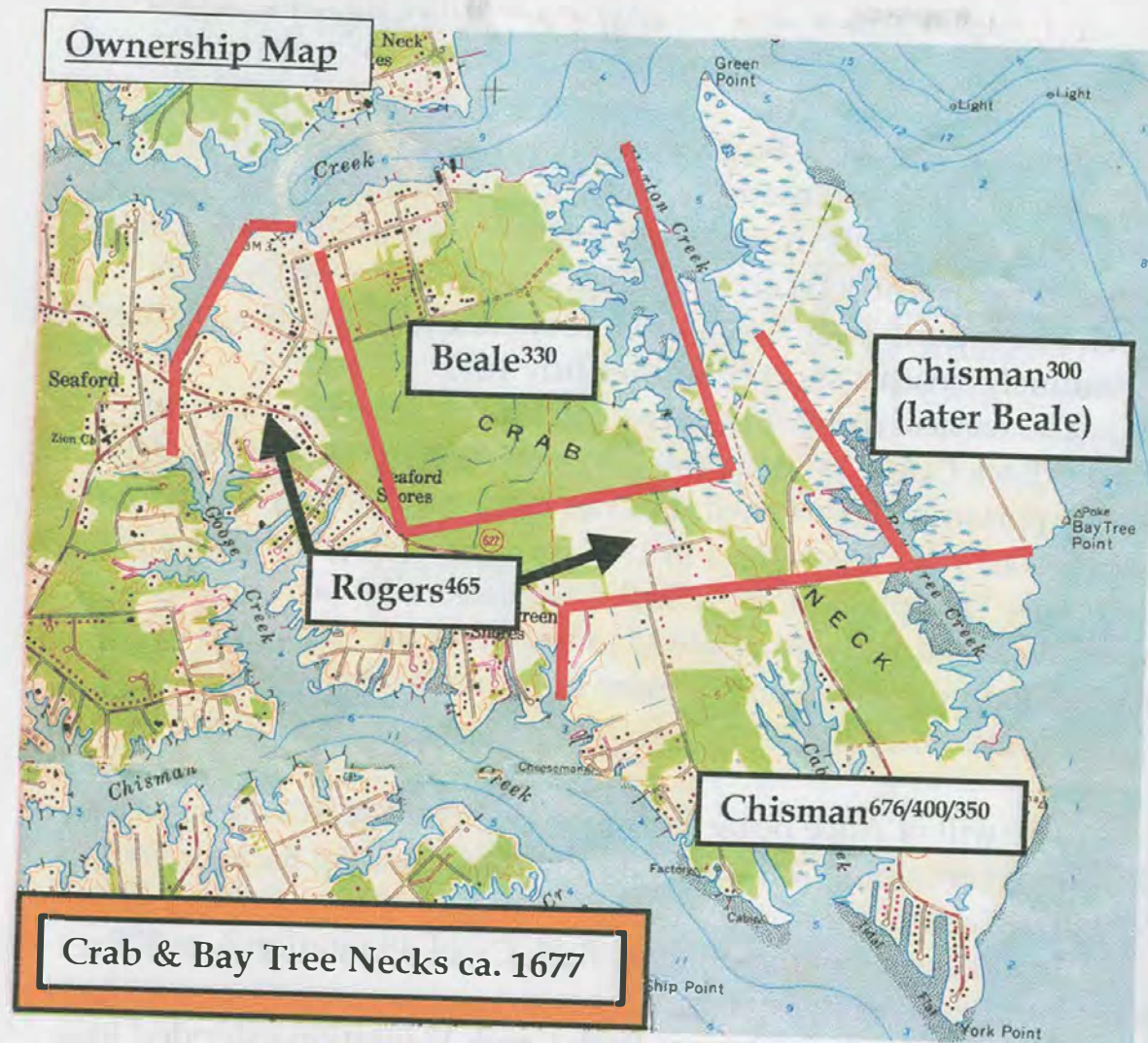
The will of Alice Beale references the plantation known as the Bay Trees containing 200 acres and the Plantation on Back Creek containing about 300 acres.

In a resurvey of these lands, Back Creek Plantation was 329 acres and Bay Tree Plantation 175 acres.

The western boundary of Back Creek Plantation extended to the small southerly run of Back Creek (cove), between Calvin Hudgins and the Moore property, then southerly to the intersection with Seaford Road close to the cove at August Drive. The southern boundary extended to the southern point of Claxton Creek.

The manor house was located at the northeast corner of the plantation land, east of the graveyard, which is at the end of present-day Shirley Road. Today, woods cover the manor house location, but there are plans to establish a housing development in that same area.

See the book *Back Creek Plantation* for further information on the plantation and the early owners.



Notes:

1. Edmund Chisman in 1662/1668 renewed the patent, deserted by Adleston and Chisman, pertaining to the 300 acres on Bay Tree Neck.
2. Adduston Rogers, grandson of Adleston (through the marriage of John Rogers to Adleston's daughter), inherited the Adleston land in 1677.
3. Edmund Chisman received a 50 acres patent in 1662 for marshland at the mouth of New Poquoson River, bounded westerly on his land, north-east on Bay Tree Creek, easterly on the Chesapeake bay, and southerly on the New Poquoson River.

Rogers

Agnes Adleston married first William Dixon and they had three children. Following William's death, Agnes married John Rogers. A son, Aduston Rogers (born ca. 1670) of John and Agnes Adleston Rogers, inherited and lived on the Rogers plantation, which was a strip of land that would ultimately extend from Bay Tree Beach to approximately the present-day location of the Seaford Post Office, through the middle portion of the Crab - Bay Tree Neck areas. Thus, Adleston land became Rogers land. An abbreviated lineage chart is shown below.

John Rogers (will 1677) - Agnes Adlestone

Aduston Rogers (b. 1670, will 1728)

John Aduston Rogers - Elizabeth Moss

William Aduston Rogers (b. 1720, will 1785) - Katherine Moss

John A. Rogers (b. 1733, will 1800) - Elizabeth Elliott

William A. Rogers (b. 1769, will 1823) - Ann Mary

This Rogers man and wives had no children.
He sold much of his land out of the family.

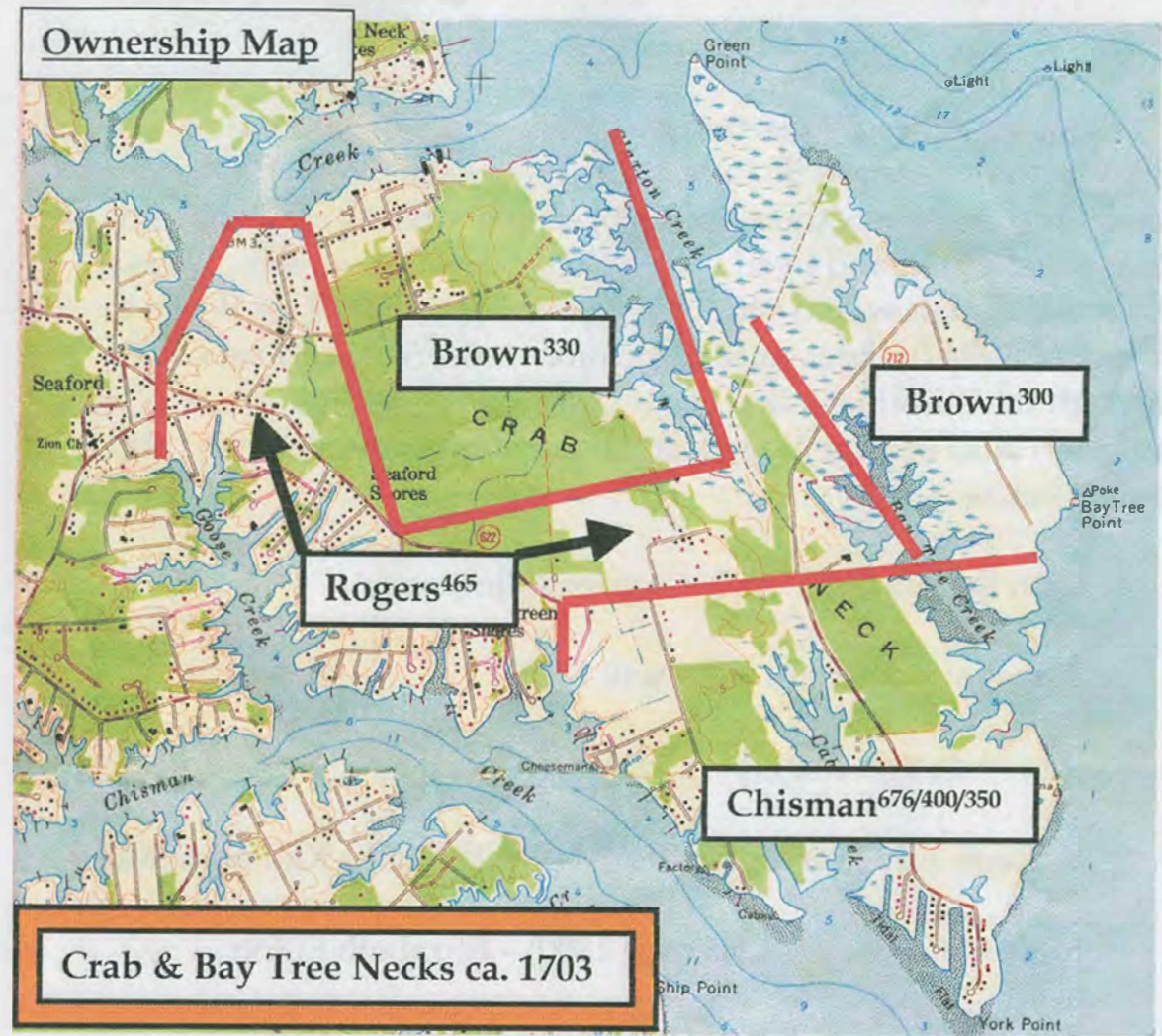
Ann Rogers. She married John Fox in 1792. John and Ann Fox had three sons:

Lewis Rogers Fox - Elizabeth Tabb

John Rogers Fox - Catherine Moss

William Rogers Fox - Sarah Ann Sheild

People named Fox, who belonged to the Rogers family, lived on Rogers land just west of present-day Hansford Lane and north of Seaford Road.



Notes:

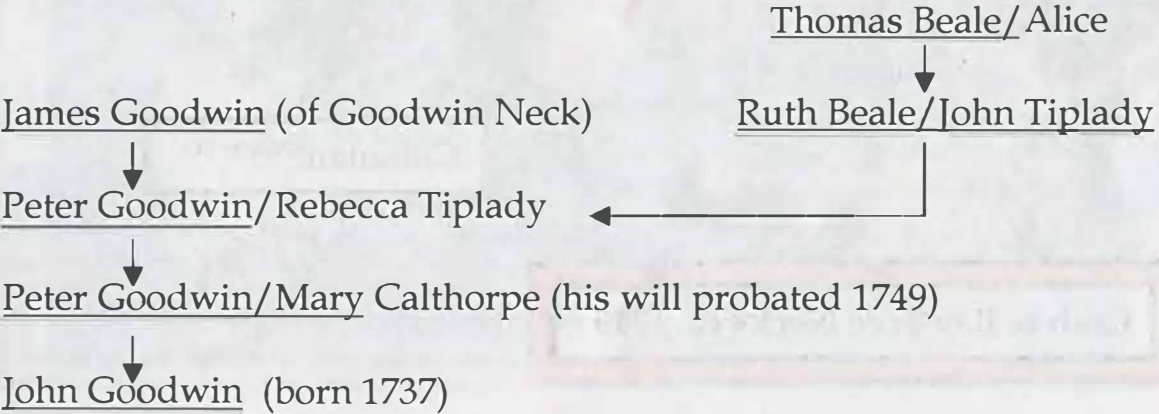
1. Alice Beale (widow of Thomas Beale) died in 1703 leaving a will in which her cousin Sarah Brown inherited Back Creek Plantation (300 acres) and Bay Tree Plantation (200 acres).
2. A resurvey of the plantation in 1820 gave acreage as 329 acres for Back Creek Plantation and 175 acres for Bay Tree Plantation.
3. The variation in assigning acreage for Bay Trees (175 vs. 300) involves excluding or including the northern portion of the neck, which was/is mostly marsh. The opinion of the author is that the northern portion, when Clarkson patented it in 1637, was suitable for agriculture.

Back Creek Plantations Owners

Alice Beale's will stated:

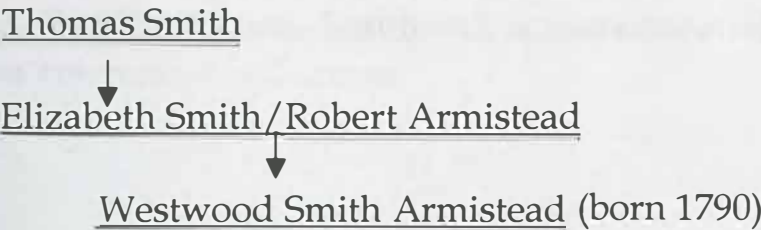
1. "To cousin, Sarah Brown wife of William Brown, (personal property) and household furniture and the plantation known as the Bay Trees containing 200 acres to her heirs and for want of heirs, to Peter Goodwin my grandson and his heirs."
2. "To cousin, Sarah Brown wife of William Brown, the plantation on Back Creek about 300 acres during her life and after death, to my said grandson Peter Goodwin."
3. "My grandson Peter Goodwin, at all times, egress and regress for his stock to feed and range upon 'The Bay Trees' Plantation."

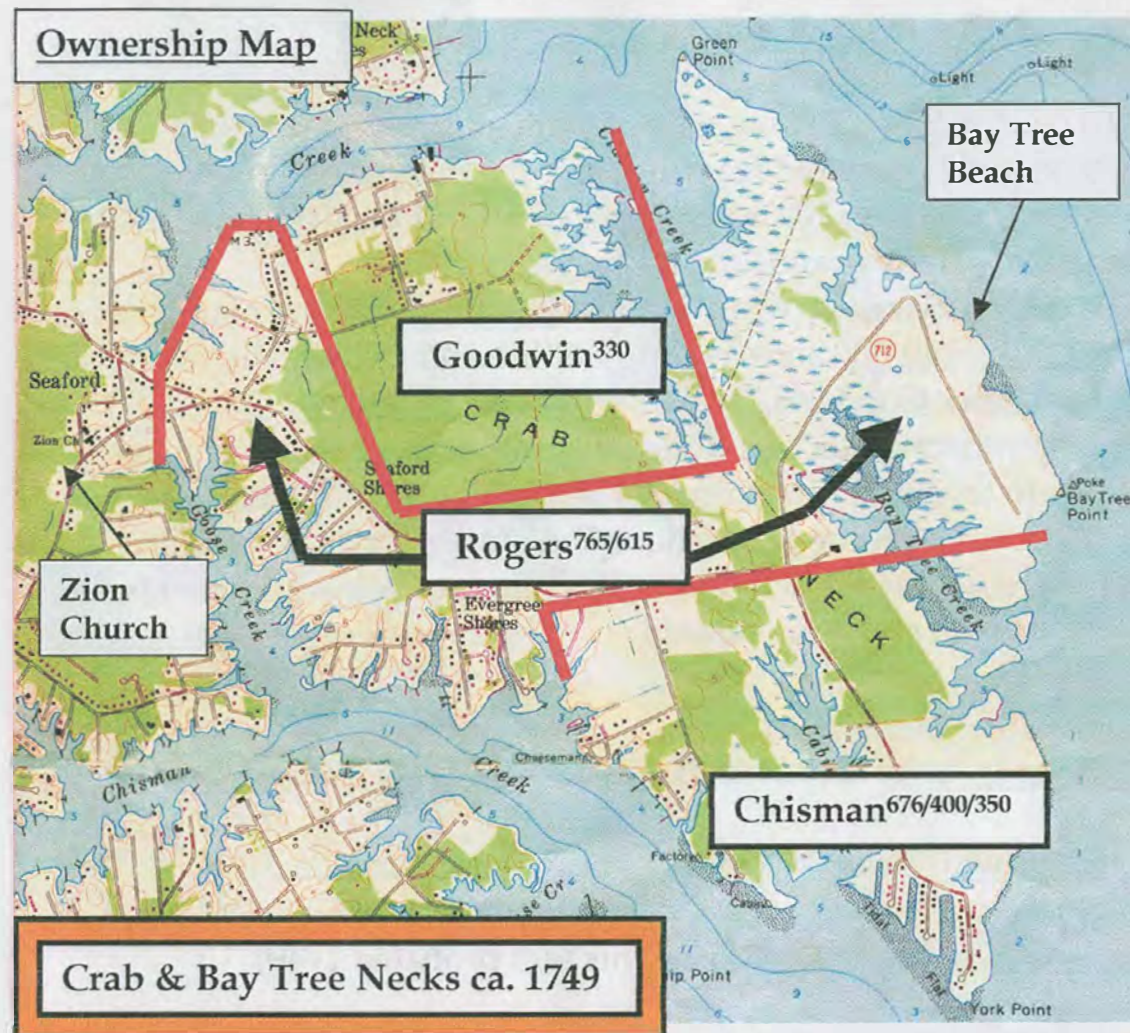
After about three generations the property passed to John Goodwin, son of Peter Goodwin. The diagram below represents the family relations and descendants.



Ownership of the property of Mrs. Beale passed to great-great grandchildren (Goodwin). Then ownership passed to Thomas Smith.

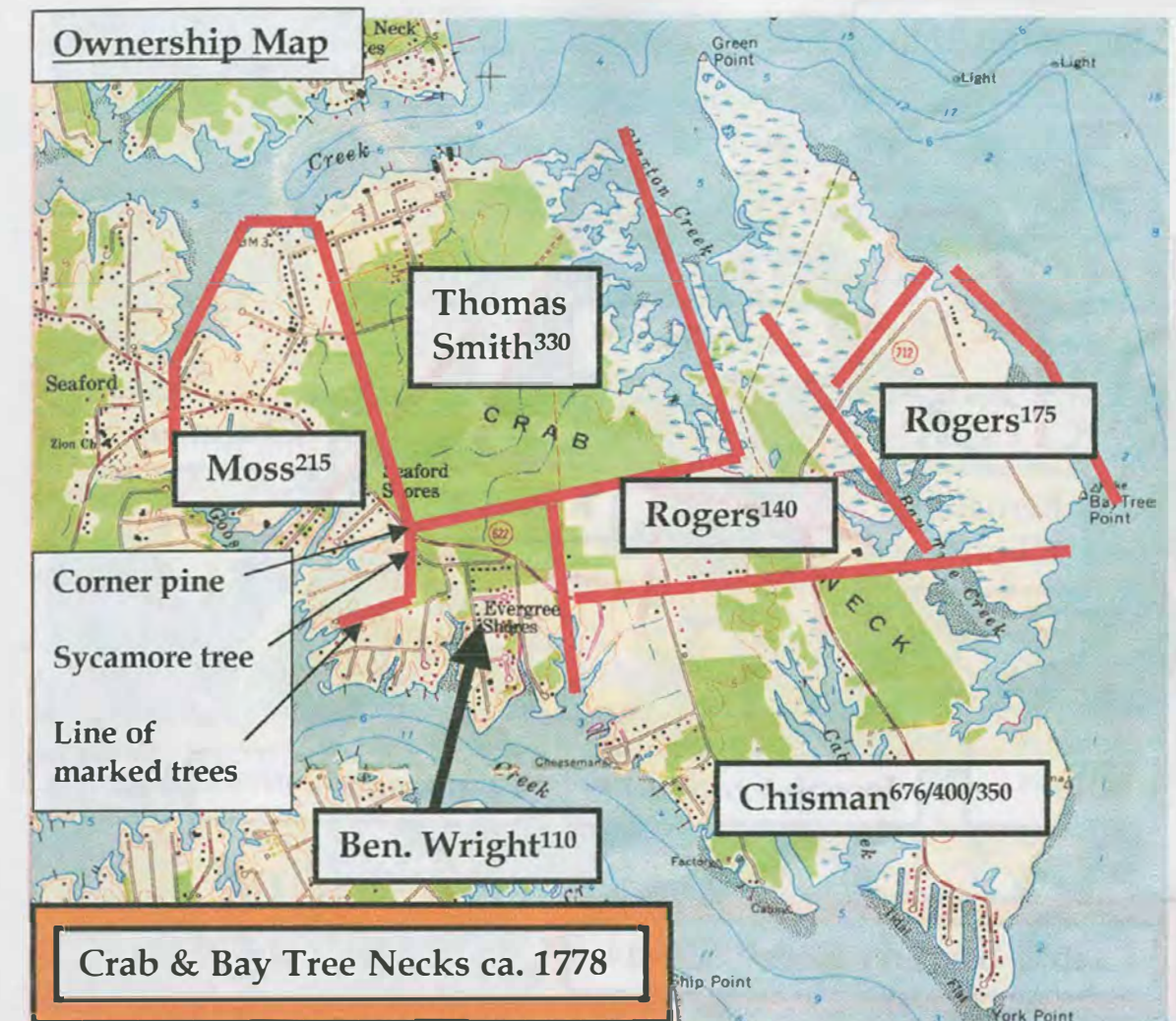
A deed dated 1 December 1804 indicates that Back Creek Plantation, consisting of 313 acres, passed to a Westwood Smith Armistead. He was the grandson of Thomas Smith, and the son of Robert Amistead and wife Elizabeth, who was the daughter of Thomas Smith.





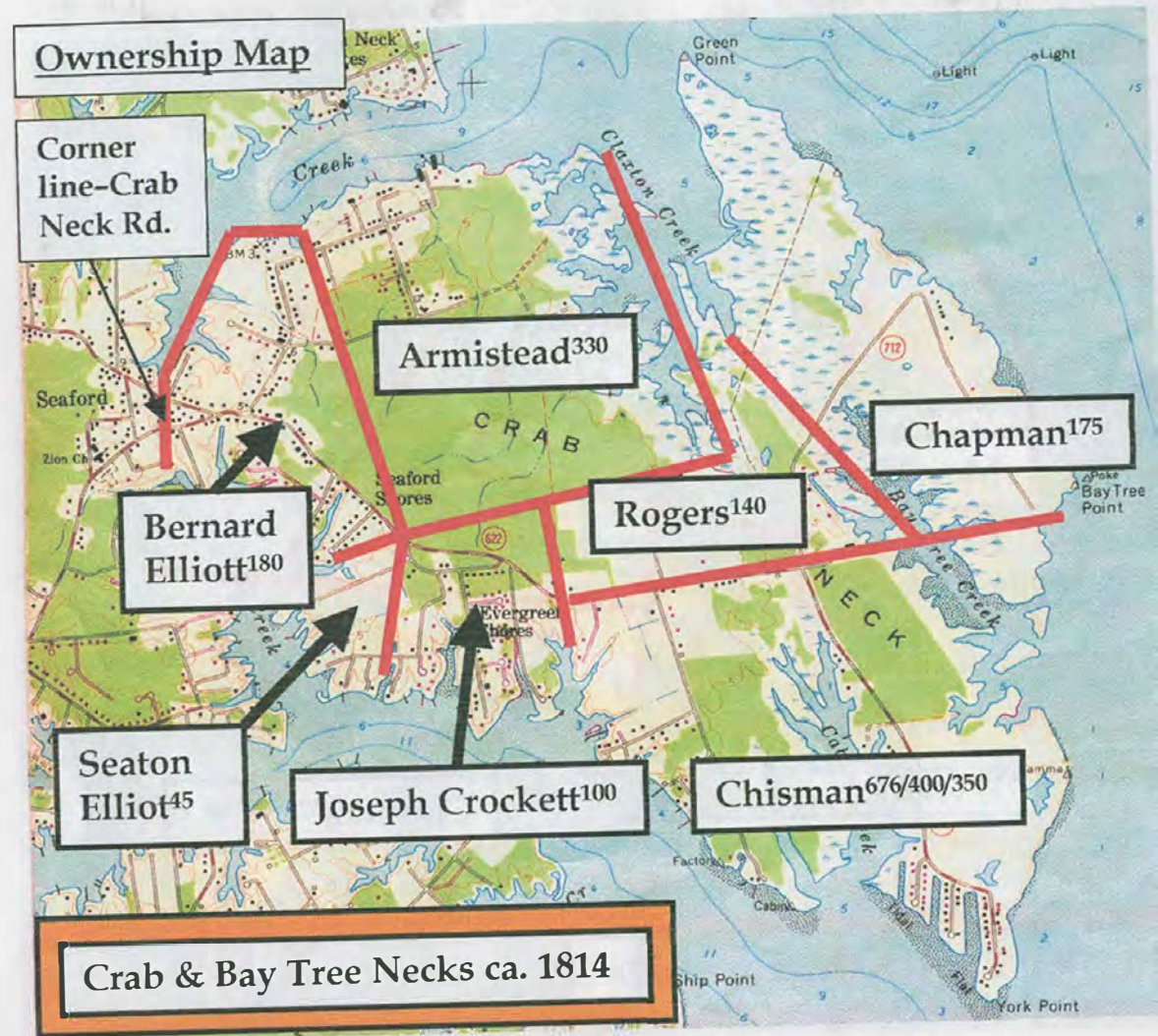
Notes:

1. Great grandchildren of the Beales – Goodwin – owned Back Creek Plantation during the first half of the 1700s.
2. The Rogers clan owned land from Bay Tree Beach to the Stroud land – the land of Zion Church. The number assigned to the acreage involves excluding or including the northern portion of the Bay Tree Neck.



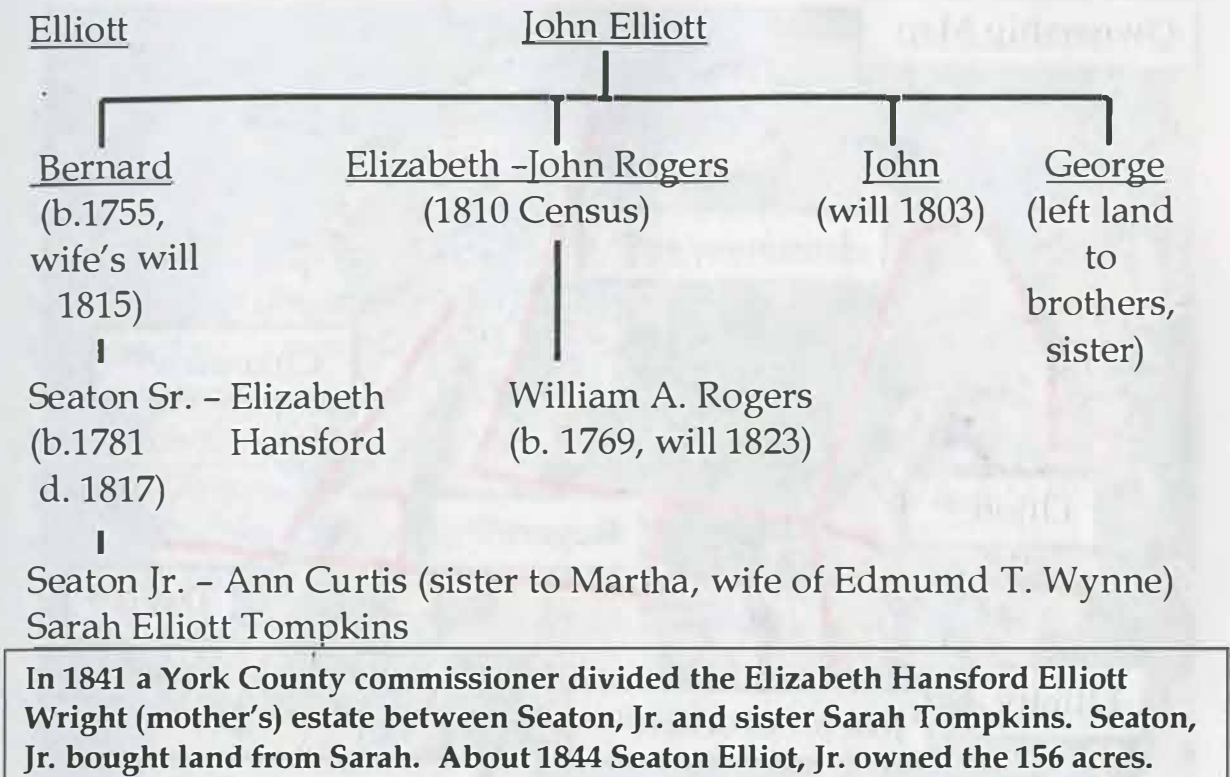
Notes:

1. Ca. 1728-29, William Adduston Rogers (5) married Katherine Moss, a widow of John Moss (died 1727).
2. In 1778 William Rogers sold to Benjamin Wright 110 acres bounded by Chisman Creek, westerly to Goose Creek to a line of marked trees bordering John Moss, running in east course to a corner sycamore tree, turning a north course to a corner pine between John Moss and Thomas Smith, running an east course as the road runs down to Pritchets Cove, a branch of Chisman Creek.
3. By 1778 Thomas Smith was in possession of Back Creek Plantation, as referenced in 2 above.

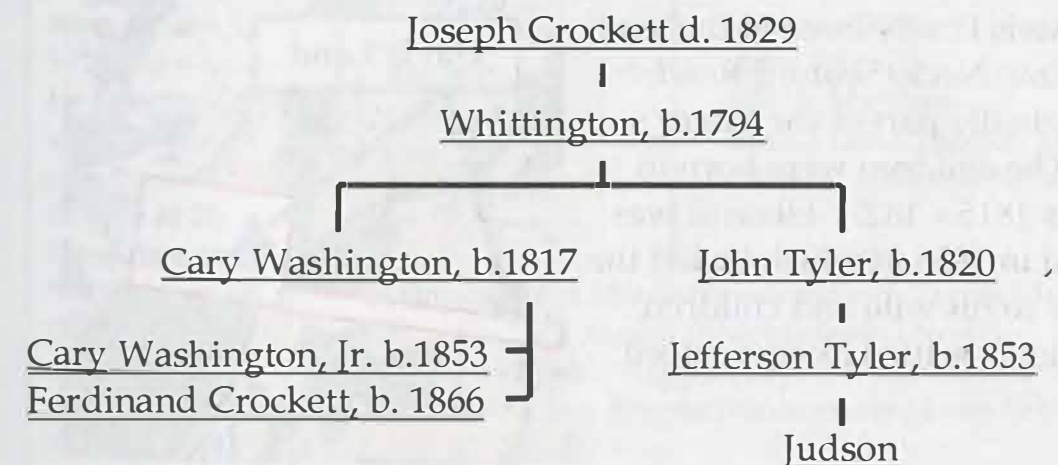


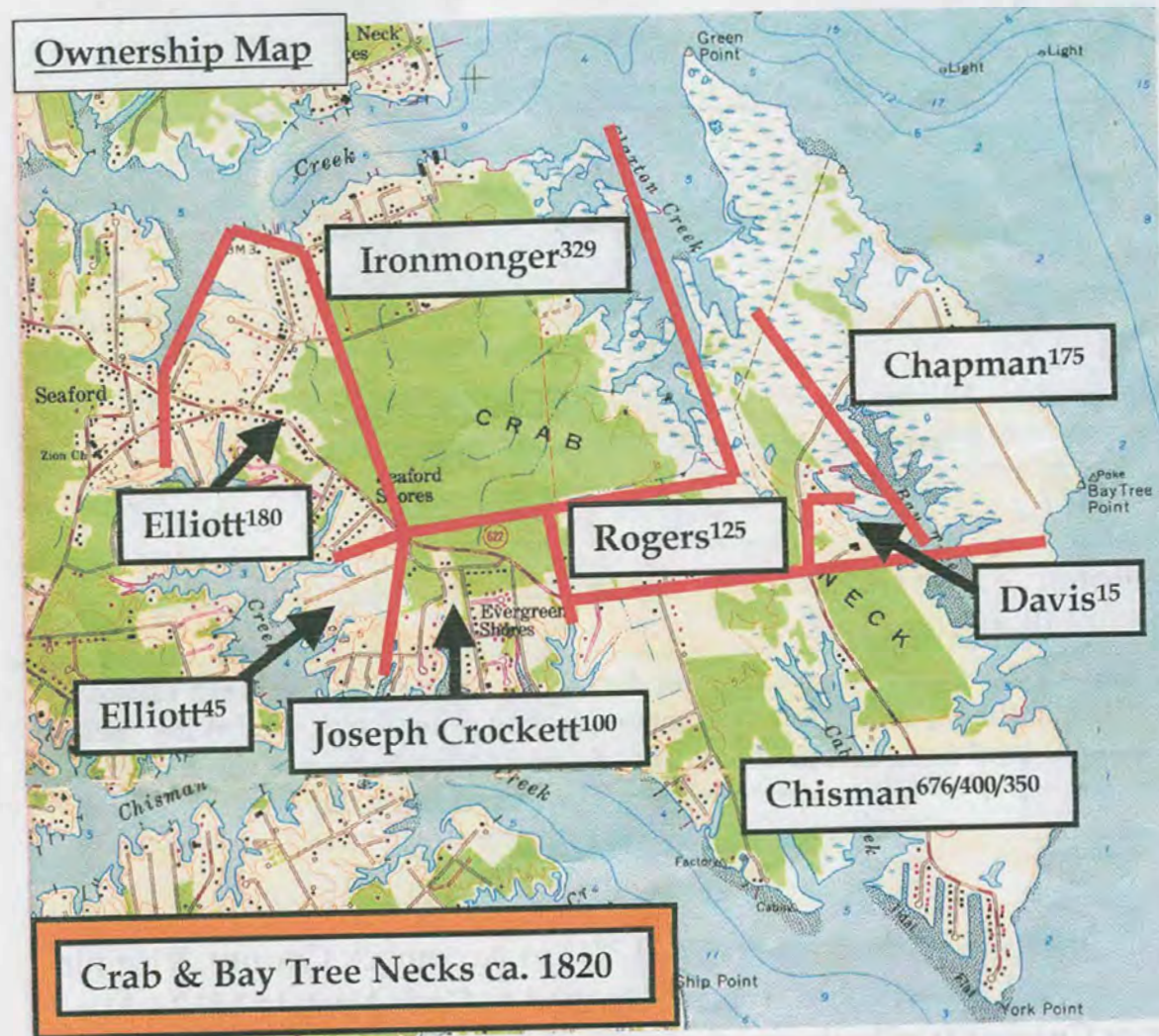
Notes:

1. Mrs. Willey Wright Tabb (wife of deceased Benjamin Wright) sold 100 acres to Joseph Crockett in 1814. Seaton Elliott bound the purchased property on the northwest, Robert Armistead on the northeast, and John A. Rogers on the southeast. The Joseph Crockett home place was just north of the cove/man made canal separating Sparrer and Crockett Roads. A Crockett graveyard was covered with the dredged material when the canal was dug.
2. Elizabeth Rogers married John Chapman in 1799. The Chapman family came into possession of the Bay Trees land of 313 acres, and passed it to their only child, Allen, born in 1800.
3. In 1807 Benjamin Stroud bought 100 acres from Elizabeth R. Hansford, daughter of Col. Edward Harwood. Stroud's land was bounded on the east by Back Creek watercourses and Bernard Elliott's land to a corner line near Crab Neck Road.

Crockett

Joseph Crockett was born (1781) in Accomack County, Virginia, and he and his wife, Sarah Long, moved to Crab Neck in 1812. A large Crockett family descended from this couple, too large to describe in detail here. They were very influential in Seaford, in general, and in the Zion Church, specifically. The chart below is an abbreviated lineage chart useful for tracing the land ownership.





Notes:

1. In 1820 James Ironmonger, from Accomac County, bought from Westwood Armistead the Back Creek Plantation of 329 acres.
2. The Christopher and Elizabeth James Davis family lived at the very end of Crab Neck/Seaford Road, land originally part of the Roger's estate. The children were born in the years 1815 - 1827. His will was probated in 1856 in which he left the property to his wife and children. Descendents settled along Seaford Road.

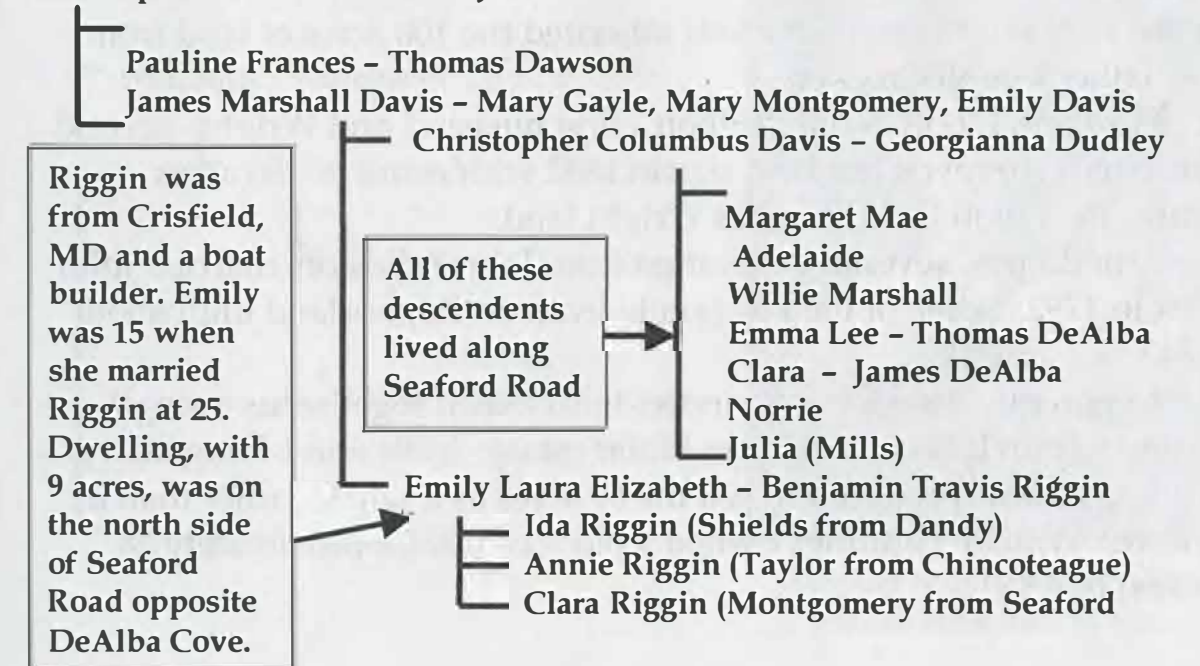


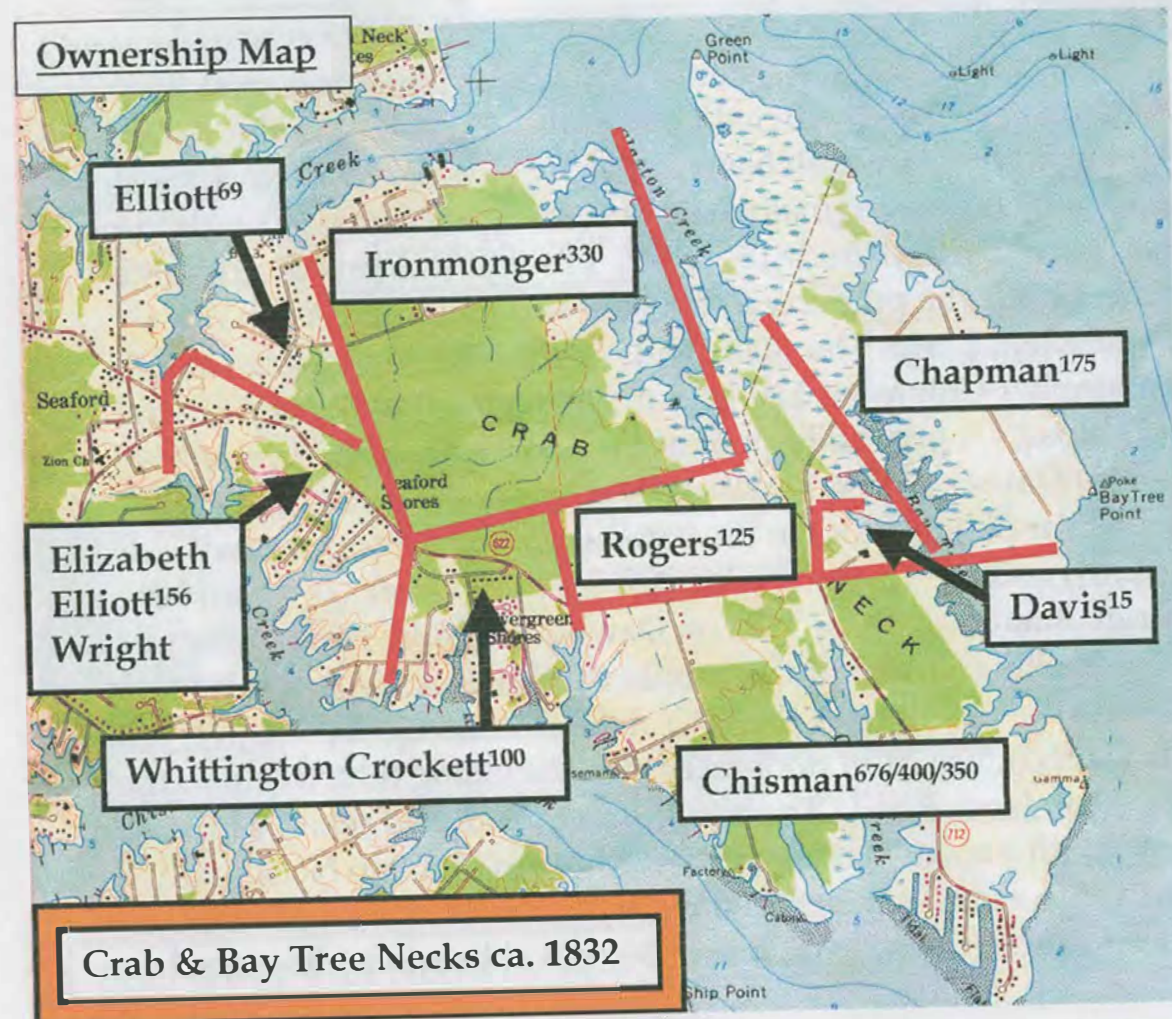
Davis

Elizabeth James, a sister to Rev. Cyrus James who was a local Methodist preacher, married Christopher Davis of Matthews County. The family lived in Crab Neck at the very end of Crab Neck/Seaford Road, which was originally part of the Rogers' estate. The children were born in the years 1815 - 1827. His will was probated in 1856 in which he left the property to his wife and children. A son of Christopher, James Marshall Davis (born 1820), and a grandson, Christopher Columbus Davis (born 1856), lived at the end of Crab Neck Road. A granddaughter of Christopher, Sarah Elizabeth (Lizzie) Dawson (born 1842), married James Y.S. Slaight, and they owned the Slaight store in the commercial center (downtown Seaford) and the shipping company on Back Creek, at the end of Shirley Road (see the section on Dawson-Cheadle Farm Areas).

All the children of Christopher Columbus Davis (born in the years 1877 - 1893) lived down Crab Neck road from the Davis house. The Davis house front door faced west, opening directly up to the long Crab Neck Road. The house was abandoned when Christopher Davis built a modest home a short distance up Crab Neck Road, south side, beside a married daughter Clara DeAlba. Davis was elderly at the time. He died in 1936. An abbreviated lineage chart:

Christopher Davis - Elizabeth James





Notes:

1. In 1829 Whittington Crockett inherited the 100 acres of land from his father Joseph Crockett.
2. Elizabeth Elliott Wright (Elliott - first husband and Wright - second husband) surveyed her land size in 1832 with result of 156 acres. Thus, the Elliott land becomes Wright land.
3. Ann Rogers, seventh generation from John Adleston, married John Fox in 1792. Some of the Fox family lived on Rogers land until about 1843.
4. Apparently, two separate individuals joined together as a single entity to purchased the 69-acre Elliott estate: Mills and Montgomery. Perhaps it was preferred to sell the 69 acres as a whole rather than in pieces. William Giddings owned a piece of this (approximately 18 acres) by 1860.

Fox

Ann Rogers married John Fox 1792. John and Ann Fox had three sons:

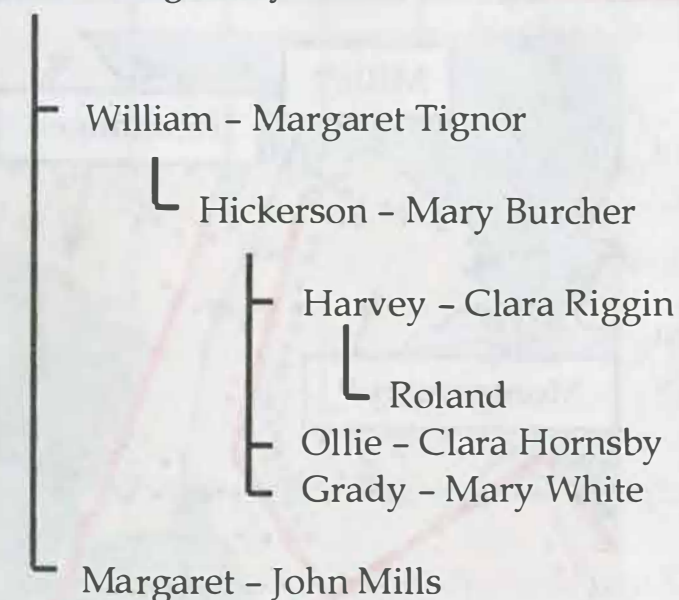
- Lewis Rogers Fox - Elizabeth Tabb
- John Rogers Fox (b. 1796, d. 1826)- Catherine Moss
- William Rogers Fox (b. 1804, d. 1837) - Sarah Ann Sheild

People named Fox, who belonged to the Rogers family, lived on Rogers' land just west of present-day Hansford Lane and north of Seaford Road. John R. Fox had two sons, John Harwood and Charles James. Lewis Fox had three daughters, Mary Susan, Frances A. and Ann Elizabeth. William R. Fox died in 1837 intestate and his estate was handled in 1839/1845. Thus, the possible time frame for their presence on Rogers land was 1792 - 1845.

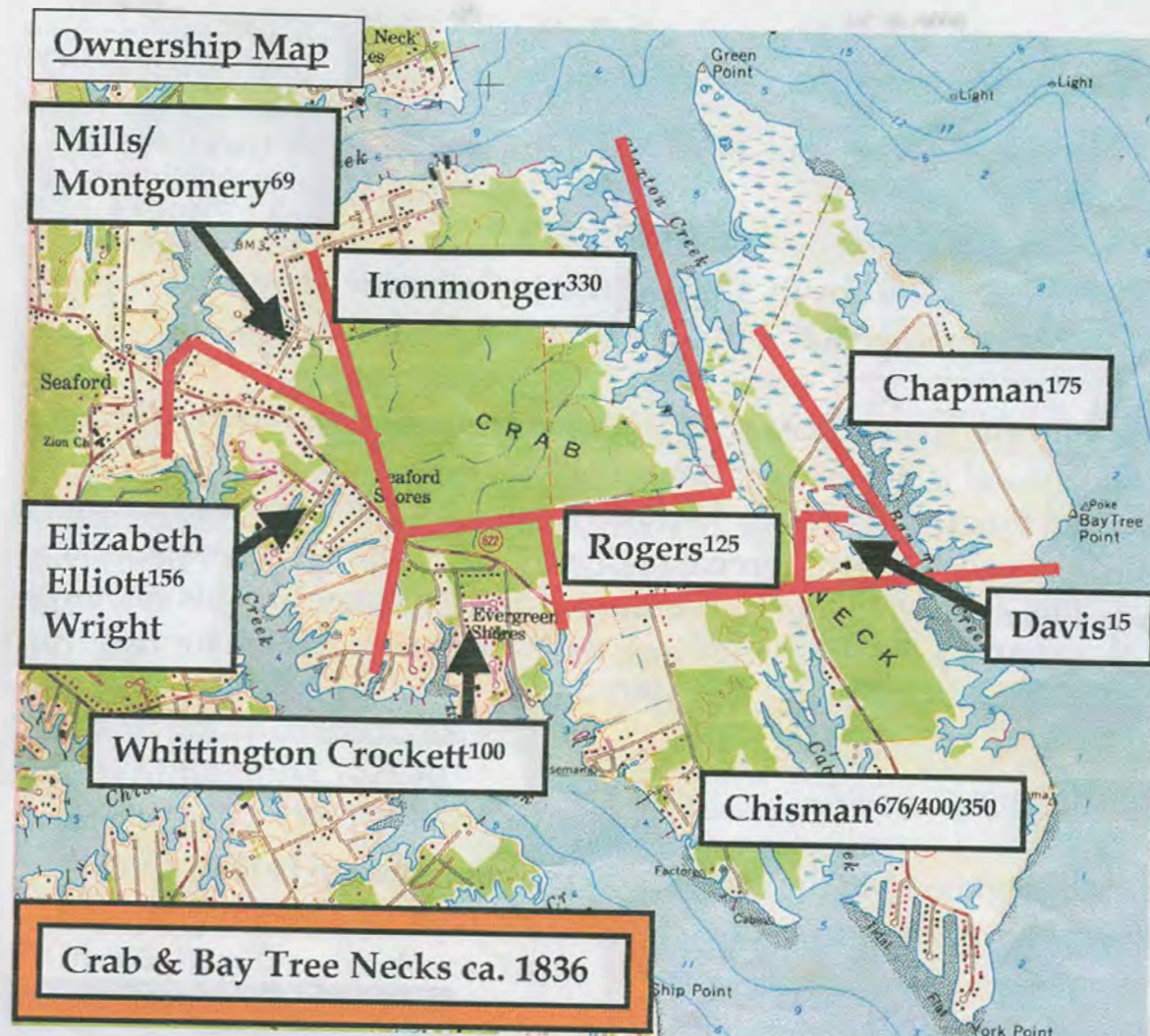
Montgomery

An abbreviated Montgomery lineage chart is shown below. Only those Montgomerys on land along Back Creek Road are highlighted.

John Montgomery b. 1798 - Rosa



Margaret Montgomery Mills
wife of John Bull Mills



Notes:

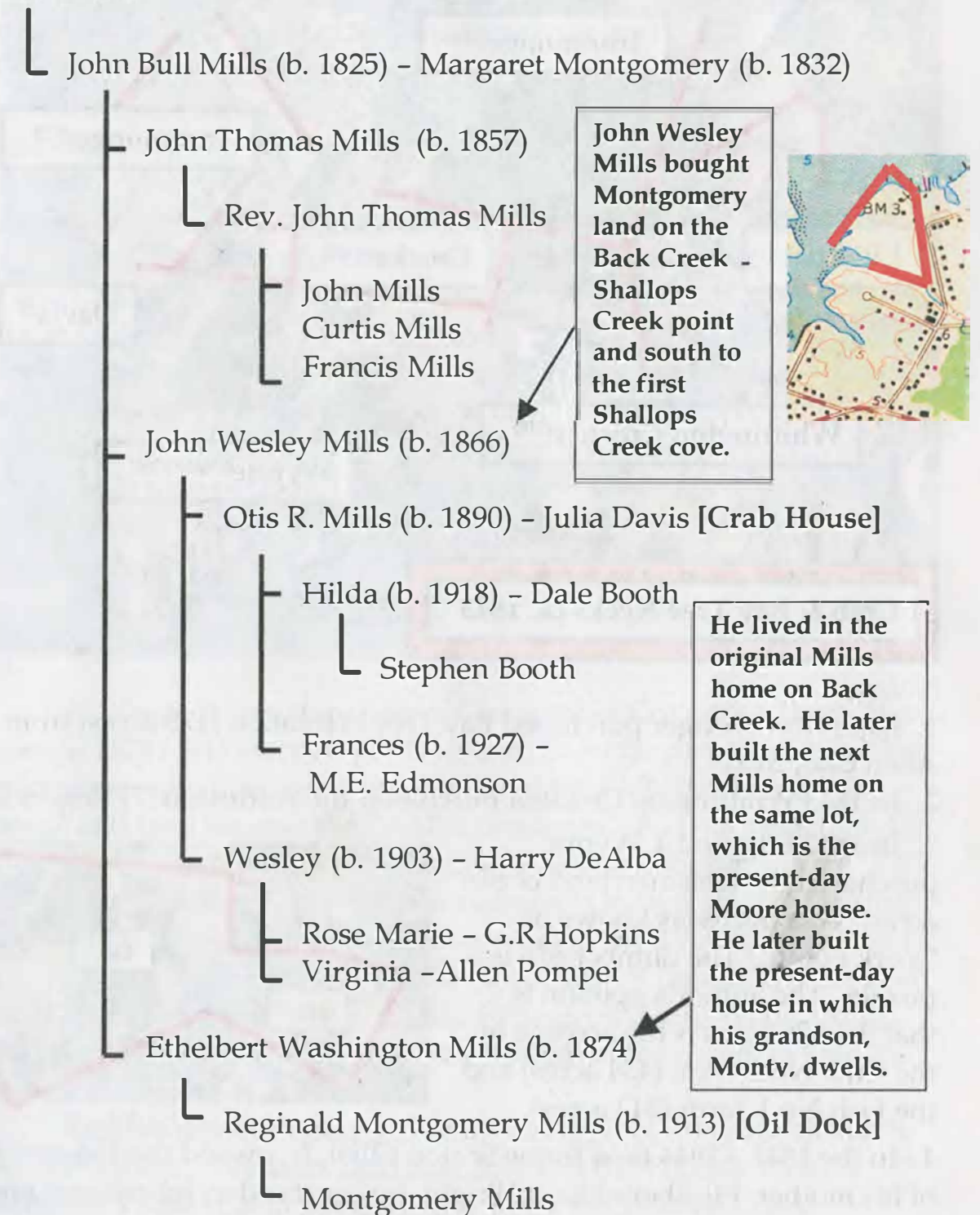
1. Mills and Montgomery in 1836/1840 bought the point of land bounded by Back Creek, Shallops Creek, Ironmonger and Elliott.
2. Mrs. Sarah Bull Mills (born in 1790) came from Accomack County, Virginia (Eastern Shore) and settled in Crab Neck in 1836. Her husband having died in 1836, Sarah came with her four children George, Thomas, John and Rose Ann.

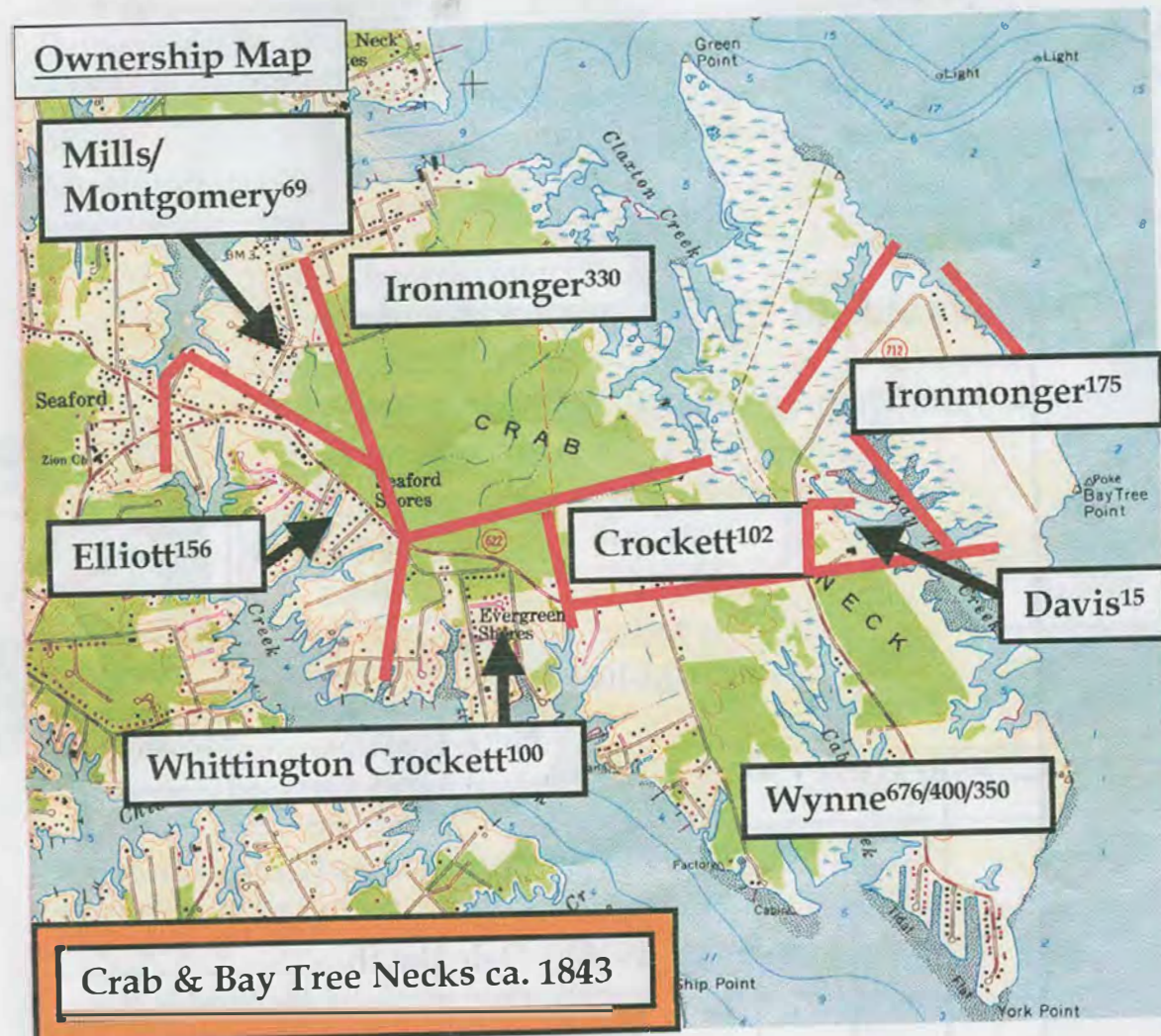


Mills

An abbreviated Mills lineage chart is shown below. Only those Mills on land along Back Creek Road are highlighted.

Sarah Mills





Notes:

1. James Ironmonger purchased Bay Tree Plantation (175 acres) from Allen Chapman.
2. In 1843 Whittington Crockett purchased the Adduston (7) Rogers land.
3. In 1842 Edmund T Wynne purchased the Chisman land of 676 acres. This tract was known as "York Point". The number 676 is a puzzle. The author's opinion is that the 676 acres is the acreage of the Crab Neck farm (434 acres) and the Fish Neck farm (242 acres).
4. In the 1841 - 1844 time frame Seaton Elliot, Jr. owned the 156-acre estate of his mother, Elizabeth Elliott Wright, by court order/inheritance and buyout.

Wynne

Edmund T. Wynne married Martha Curtis in 1833. He came from Warwick County. In 1842 he purchased the Chisman Plantation called "York Point". The name "York Point" referred to the whole southeast area, i.e., east of DeAlba Lane cove and south of Seaford Road to present-day York Point.

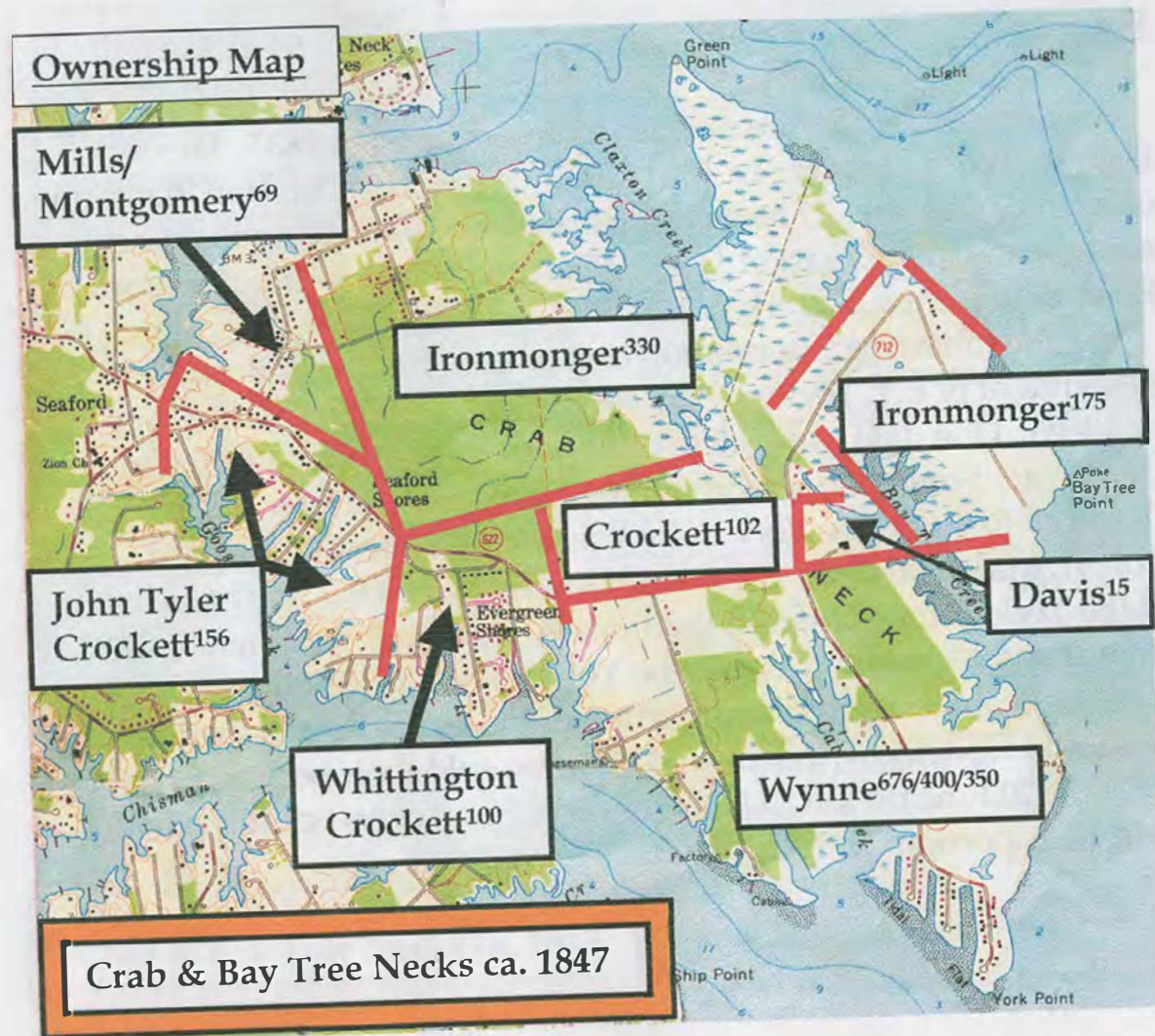
The following information comes from Frederick Boelt, a descendent of E.T. Wynne. The Wynnes had eight surviving children. One died in infancy, three sons were killed in action in the Civil War. Son James was given the Curtis farm in Fish Neck (Railway Road area). York Point was divided between Richard, Robert, Mary (Minson) and Lucy (Howard). The E.T. Wynnes lived at the York Point farm until their death, his in 1885 and hers in 1892. Robert and his family lived at the York Point house with his parents from 1875 and inherited that portion of the farm. Robert died in 1898, and his widow, Zelica, and children sold their portion in the 1909 - 1920 time period. The other three E.T. Wynne children had sold their portions in 1902 - 1903.

DeAlba

Adelaide Davis, daughter of Christopher Columbus Davis, was born in 1879. She married (2nd husband) San Francisco (Tick) DeAlba who apparently purchased his stepdaughter's inherited land. The house and land became the DeAlba residence, and was located at the end of Crockett Road in the old home of Joseph Crockett. Tick DeAlba and his three sons were watermen. One son, Harry DeAlba married Wessie Mills and their home was on short Back Creek Road.

Thomas, a brother of Tick DeAlba, married Emma Lee Davis in 1898, and owned the farm bounded by Seaford Road, Wildey Road, and DeAlba Lane. Their house was located on the corner of DeAlba Lane and Seaford Road.

DeAlba descendants purchased and divided the back field into waterfront lots. The back field was between the Thomas DeAlba farm and Presson land along Wildey Road to Chisman Creek.



Notes:

1. In 1847 Edmund T. Wynn, as a commissioner, sold the Elliott estate (owned by his widow Elizabeth Elliott Wright and surveyed at 156 acres in 1832) to John Tyler Crockett, son of Whittington Crockett.
2. In 1845 Cary Crockett (born 1817), son of Whittington Crockett, began purchasing from his father the land (102 acres) purchased from William Adduston Rogers estate.
3. Cary Crockett lived in the John Rogers house, which was off present-day Hansford Lane. John Tyler Crockett (and grandson Judson) lived at the end of present-day August Drive. Jefferson Tyler Crockett lived at the end of present-day Blanton Drive, which is off Kenneth and Raymond Drives. Ferdinand Crockett (born 1866 and great grandson of Whittington) lived at the end of Chisman Point Road off of Sparrer Road.

Moss History, "long" Back Creek Road, 1847 - 1866

John Moss was born ca. 1784. A receipt from him to his guardian, William Garrow (see section on Dawson - Cheadle Farm Area), dated 21 October 1805 was proved and recorded. Thus, he must have reached age 21 years at this time. William Garrow was his guardian from 1797 until late 1800. John Moss married Mary Kemp.

John and Mary Moss sold to William Tabb 10 acres of land bounded on the east by the main road to Crab Neck, west by the marsh, north by land of William Tabb, and south by Allen Chapman. Apparently, John Moss received this land from William Garrow who inherited it from John Garrow.

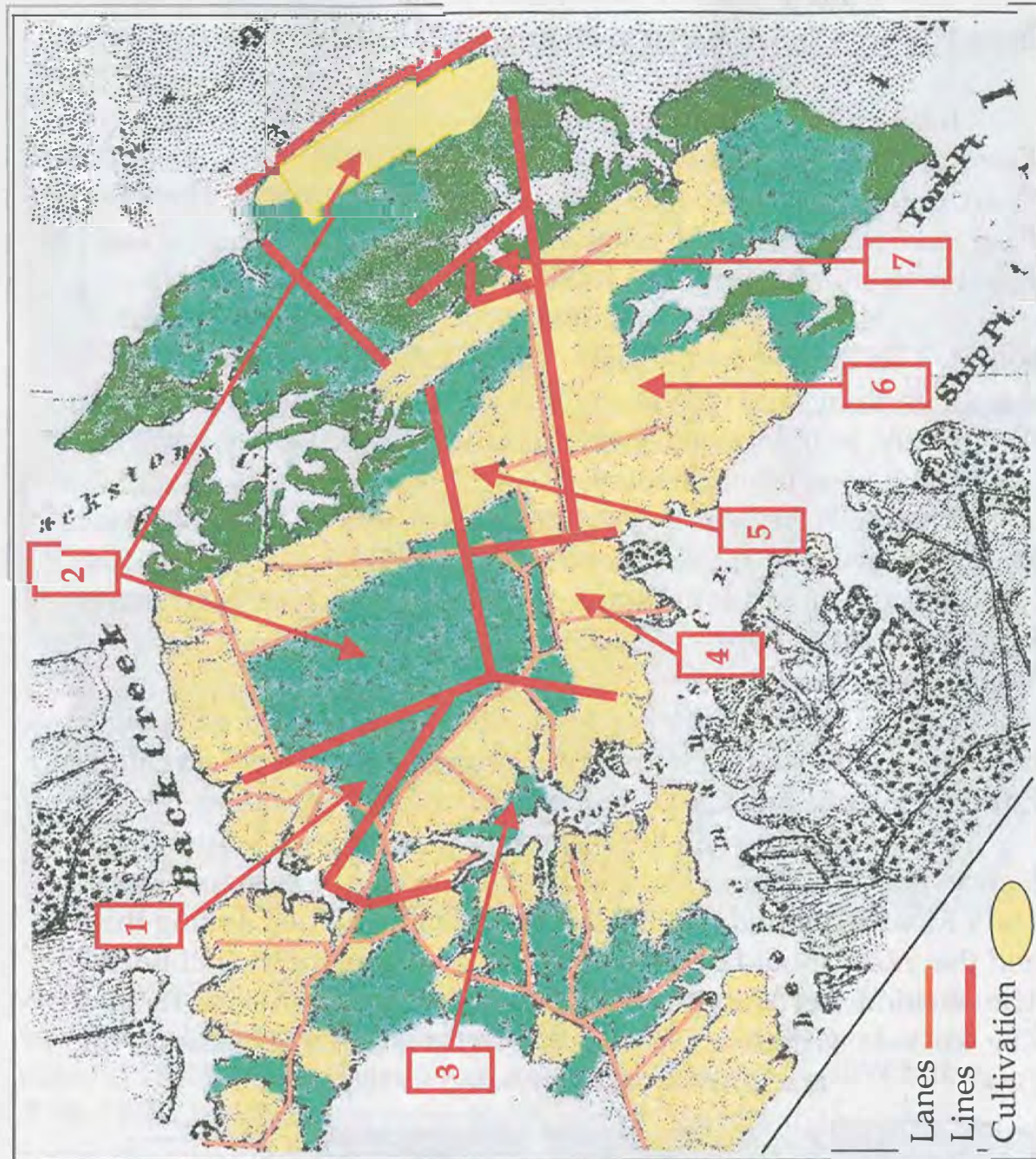
The 1850 census shows that John Moss was 67 Years old and Mary 63 years, thus making her birth date as 1787.

A deed dated 1847 indicated that John Moss bought 100 acres from R. Throckmorton. The location of this property was along "long" Back Creek Road.

In 1859 he willed the estate to wife Mary, no children being mentioned, and leading to the conclusion that there were no children. Edmund Wynne and Cary Crockett were named executors.

Mary Moss gave all her real estate to her slaves: Louisa, Jane, Nancy, Polly and Sam. These colored folk took the surname Moss. Mary Moss requested that the land be equally divided among them and that none should ever be sold, but to be kept for their children. The remainder of Mary's possessions was likewise given to them. The will was written in 1863, being witnesses by Cyrus James, W.B. Gray and William Hornsby, and probated in 1866.





This 1857 historical map is from the database of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Admin. (The author colored the Crab Neck area.) This map is correlated with the Crab and Bay Tree Necks ca. 1847 ownership map previously shown.

1. Mills/Montgomery
2. Ironmonger
3. John T. Crockett
4. Whitt. Crockett
5. (Cary) Crockett
6. Wynne
7. Davis

Notice the lanes and the wooded areas. The author added the Bay Tree beach area. There are some differences from the McClellan maps.

The following chart is a close-up of the 1862 Gen. McClellan map showing Crab and Bay Tree Necks. Comparison with the previous NOAA 1857 map shows a few differences in lanes and cleared areas. Whether or not one map was used to produce the other is not known.

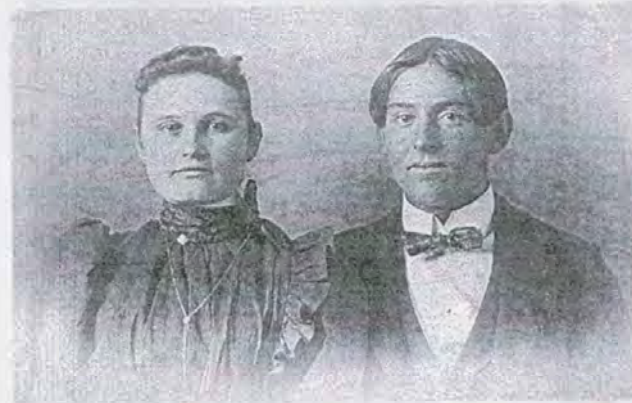




Edmund T. and Martha Wynne



James Sparrer



Annie Hogg and brother Sam Hogg



Above: Mary Sparrer (Amory)
Left: Isaac Sparrer

Below, author's rendition (based on sketches by Thelma Hansford) of the Davis House that was at the end of Seaford Road, left, and the Wynne House on old York Point, right.

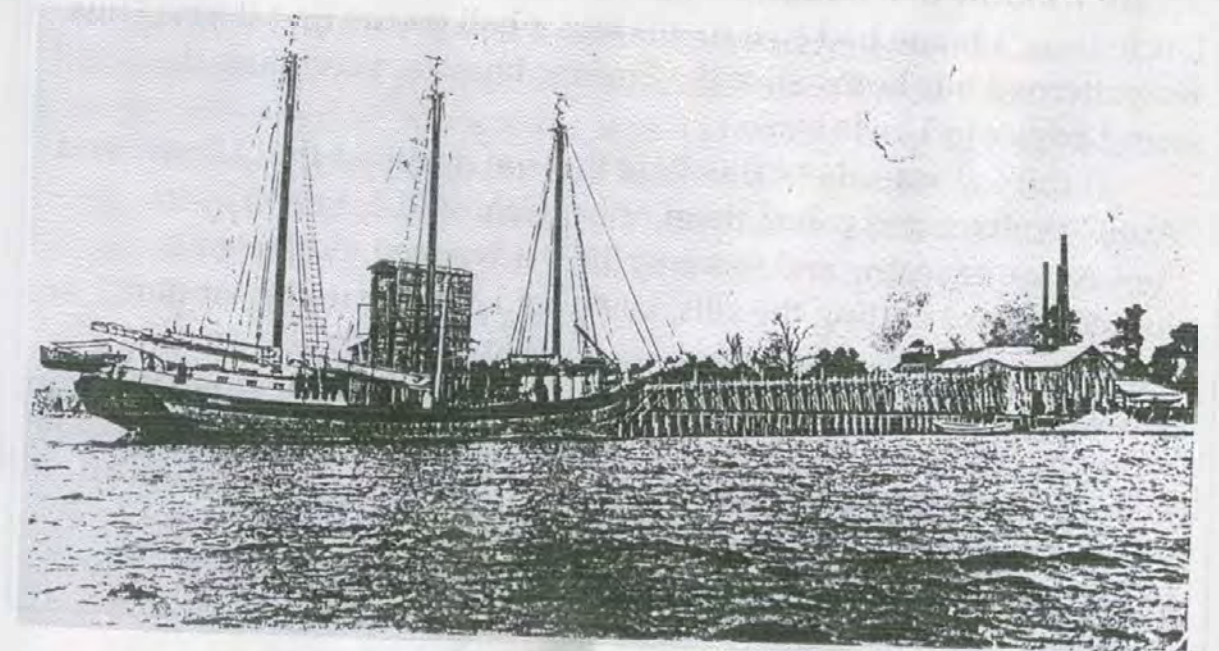


Left: James
Herman
Sparrer



Right: Sarah
(Sadie)
Ironmonger
Teagle

A picture of a boat docked at the fertilizer and chicken feed (crab) factory located near the end of Wildey Road on Chisman Creek.



Uncle Isaac and Aunt Lizzie Sparrer
By Elizabeth Ironmonger

Wes and I were married March 19, 1909 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. We returned to Crab Neck to make our home with Father and Mother Ironmonger until such time as we could build a home of our own. And so the plans began!

Wesley's parents decided to give us an acre of land in the northeast corner of their field on which Wesley would build a home for us. Then Wesley and my Papa, W.H. Hogg (Billy) talked about the needed lumber with which to build. They went into my father's woods, selected trees to cut, and thus plans for a new dwelling for us were under way.

Wesley, my brother Eddie and Papa, with Frank and Clint Randall, cut down the trees and hauled them to Wormley's Creek, where they were rafted down the York River to Back Creek and finally to Eddie Purgold's saw mill. Mr. Purgold had offered to saw the lumber as a favor to Wes.

Next we began to consider plans for a dwelling and Wes talked with his Uncle Isaac Sparrer who had comparatively recently built his two-story house on land next to our acre. I was impressed with the beauty of the Sparrer home, noticing particularly, an extra dormer in the center of the front roof of the house. The dormer had a small square window that added much to the attractiveness of the house. Uncle Isaac's home had two rooms and a hall on the first floor. Thus we patterned our home after the Sparrer home appreciating the sound advice of Uncle Isaac.

(I think it was about this time that we dropped the "Uncle" and "Aunt" prefixes and called them only "Isaac and Lizzie".)

As spring came and summer 1909 advanced, Ed Purgold worked toward cutting the sills, joists, and other framing for our house.

On a Sunday in early August (1909) Isaac came down to the Ironmonger home to talk over the progress of our building plans. As he was leaving he said to us, "Wes, you and Bessie come on and go home with me and eat some of my peaches which are now ripe." And so we went home with Isaac who escorted us into his nice peach

orchard that was growing on a big lot just across the stream from our place. The peaches were in prime condition and we walked from tree to tree, sampling the different varieties. Lizzie (Isaac's wife) came out to the orchard and invited us to come in and visit awhile, but the evening was advancing and so, we went back, across the field and down the lane and home, having had a real outing with these good neighbors.

Isaac and Lizzie had two daughters, Eunice and Madeline who were older than our children.

In 1909-1910: As time went by Wes got our house ready for occupancy and we moved in May 1910. In the meantime our Thelma was born New Year's Day 1910 and so when we moved, there were three of us: Wes, Thelma, and me, a real family in this new abode.

We were happy and busy, and as we became established at housekeeping, Lizzie sold to us fresh homemade butter. This was a real neighborly act. She gave us milk and clabber with which to make biscuits light and tender. Isaac had two or three big pear trees in his side yard that bore much fruit. Lizzie gave us many buckets of Kieffer pears to make pickle and preserves for our table. Through many years we enjoyed this neighborliness in their sharing.

In June 1911 our second daughter, Estelle, was born at Mother Ironmonger's home. For this period of time Thelma was a guest at Ma Hogg's in Tampico [Hornsbyville]. In July we went back home, a real family, of Wes and me, and two little girls.

Lizzie came over to our home immediately, admired our children, and offered her friendly cooperation as I resumed housekeeping again. Always she was a kind and helpful neighbor.

Time moved on; Isaac built a kitchen and porches on their home. When Eunice and Madeline were grown, a third daughter, Elinor was born to Isaac and Lizzie. She became quite a pet with her middle-aged parents.

In 1928 John Garland Ironmonger was born to us. We needed milk for the new baby. We turned to Lizzie for help and she provided the necessary daily quarts of milk for him.

Crocketts

Back row L to R: Bell Lindsay Crockett, Judson Lee Crockett, Bell Crockett (Wood), Ferdinand D. Crockett, Sarah Elizabeth Crockett, Virginia Anne Dawson Crockett, Elizabeth Crockett Sparrer, and Isaac W. Sparrer. Middle row L to R: Judson LeRoy Crockett, Wiley Phaup Crockett, Joe Crockett, and Willie Pullen. Front row L to R: Mattie Crockett (Worthington), Lillian Crockett Foster, and Louise Crockett Hogg.



Above: Home of Judson and Bell Crockett built about 1913. Below: Home of Jefferson Tyler and Virginia Ann Dawson Crockett (1877 marriage).



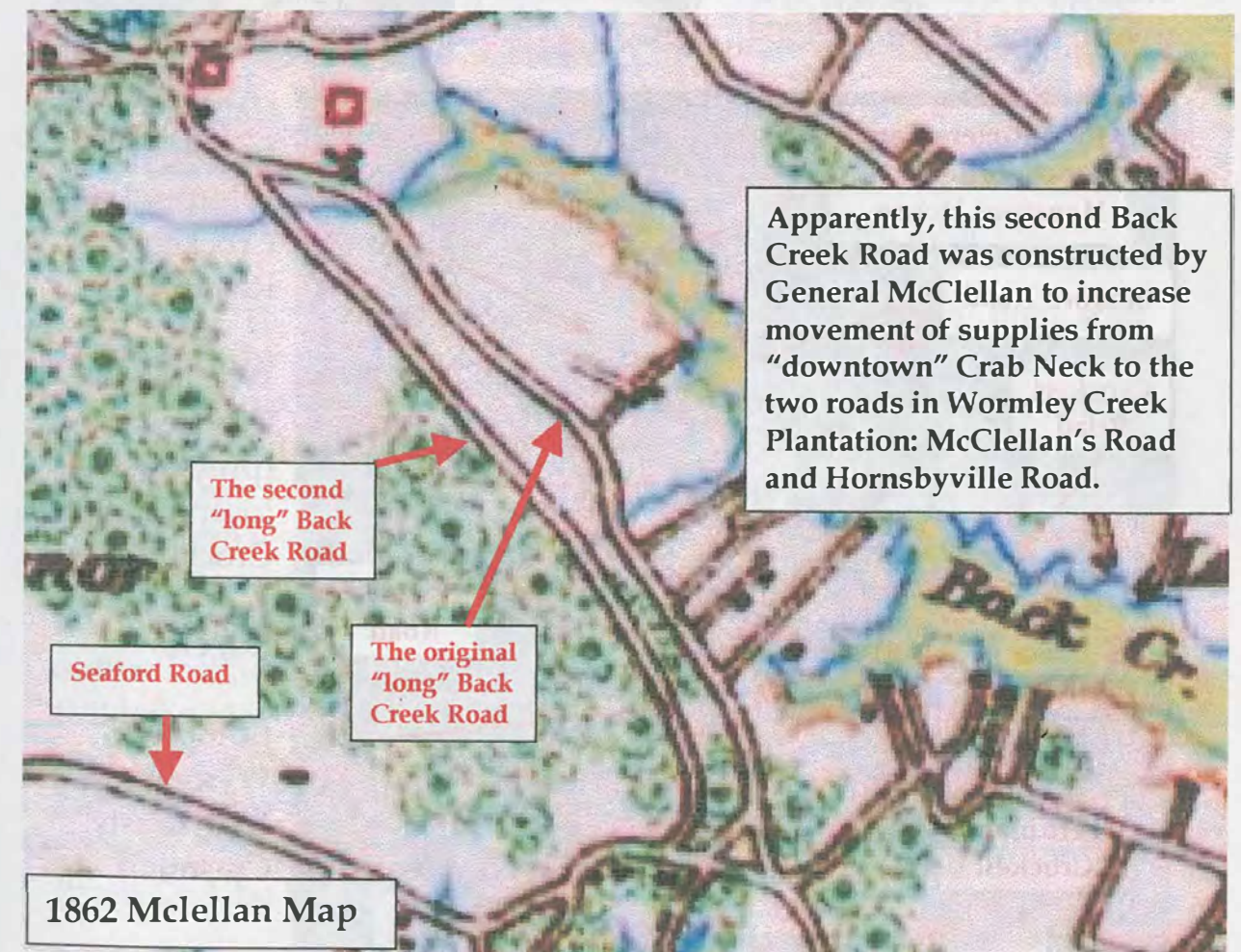
Crab Neck Plantation Lands



Back Row, L to R: I.W. Sparrer, Lizzie Sparrer, Jefferson Crockett, Virginia Crockett, Bell Crockett, Mrs. Robinson, Bell Wood, Floyd Wood. Front Row, L to R: Eunice Sparrer, Madeline Sparrer, Esther Crockett, Wiley Crockett, Roy Crockett.

A family gathering at I.W. and Lizzie Sparrer home, 1915.

Two "long" Back Creek Roads in Seaford



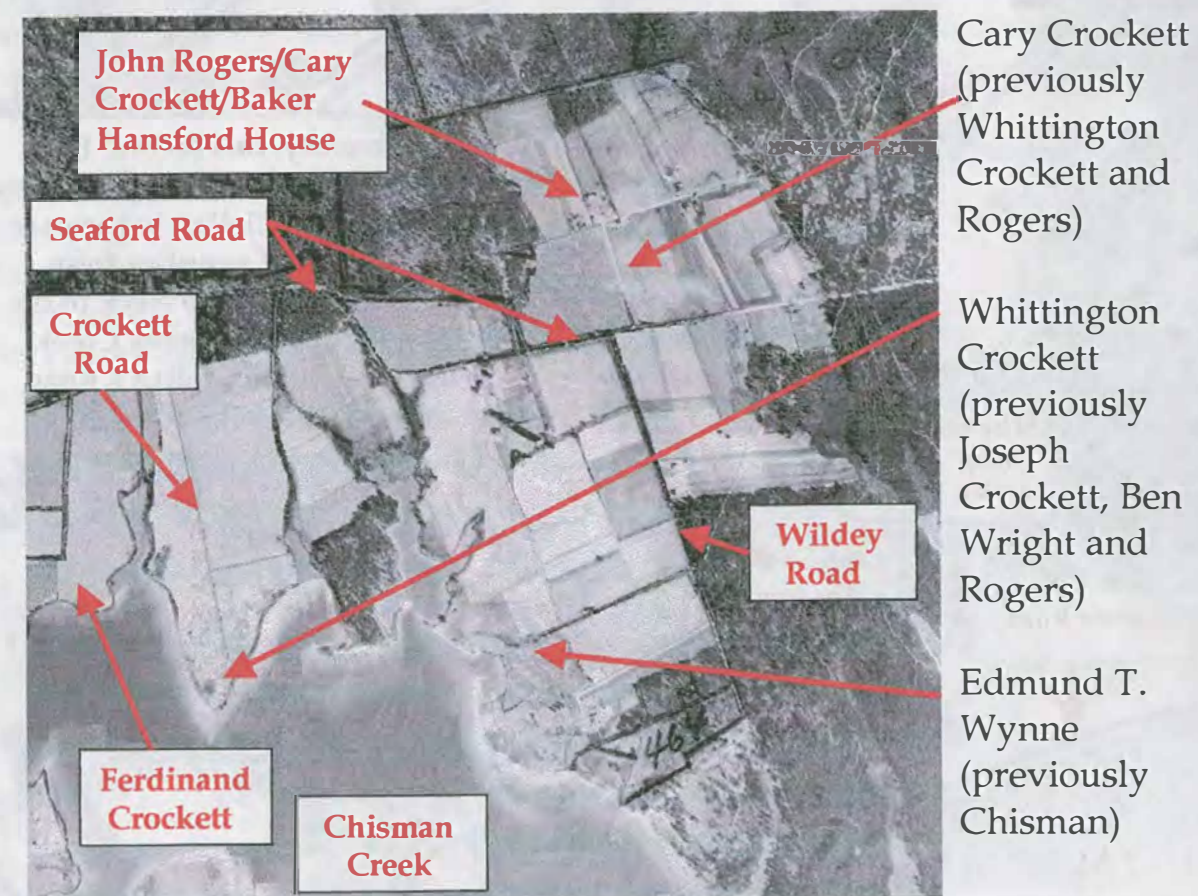
1862 Mclellan Map

Crab Neck Plantation Lands

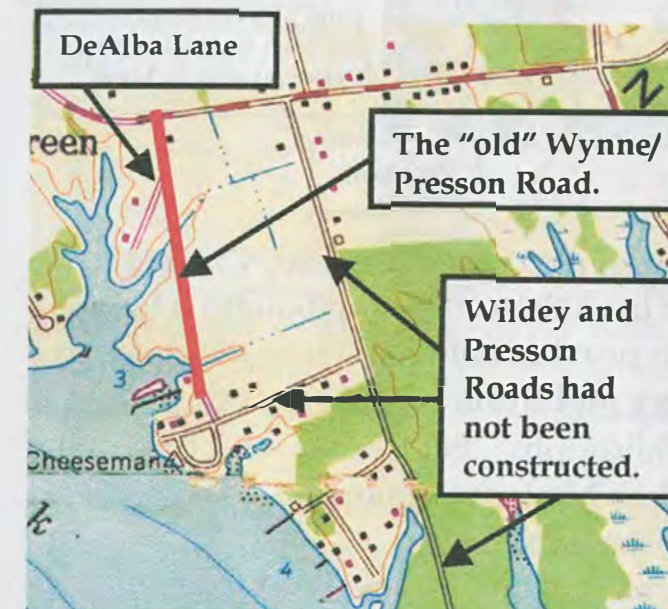
Crockett Road to Cabin Creek/Claxton Creek 1885 - 1920

After 1847 the Crockett, Davis, Mills, Montgomery, Wynne and Ironmonger lands were divided among their descendents, and in some cases, parcels were sold out of the families. New and old names appear as owners. The Edmund Wynne descendents sold their inherited York Point property over the period 1902 - 1920. William H. Hornsby, J.W. Ballard and Thomas DeAlba were the primary buyers. However, Benjamin T. Riggin purchased a quarter acre from Robert C. Wynne in 1891 in the vicinity of DeAlba's cove.

After the death of Edmund (1885) and Martha (1892) Wynne, the occurrence of any one person owning large land holdings in Crab Neck began to dwindle. The following discussions and photos present some of the history associated with subsequent landowners and their location. Given below, a 1937 aerial photo showing the land area extending from Sparrer Road (west) to Cabin Creek (east) and Hansford Lane (north) to Chisman Creek (south). The map is annotated with names spanning from the original owners to those owning the land after 1900.

Presson

(Old Man) Bill Presson lived in the area of Elksnin Lane/Putnam Drive along Chisman Creek off Robanna Shores Drive. William Herman Presson, a son, lived at the Presson home site after his father died. Just east of William Herman was Carroll (Cal) Columbus Presson; a long lane, from where Seaford Baptist church is today, stretched directly to his home on present-day Thomas Road.

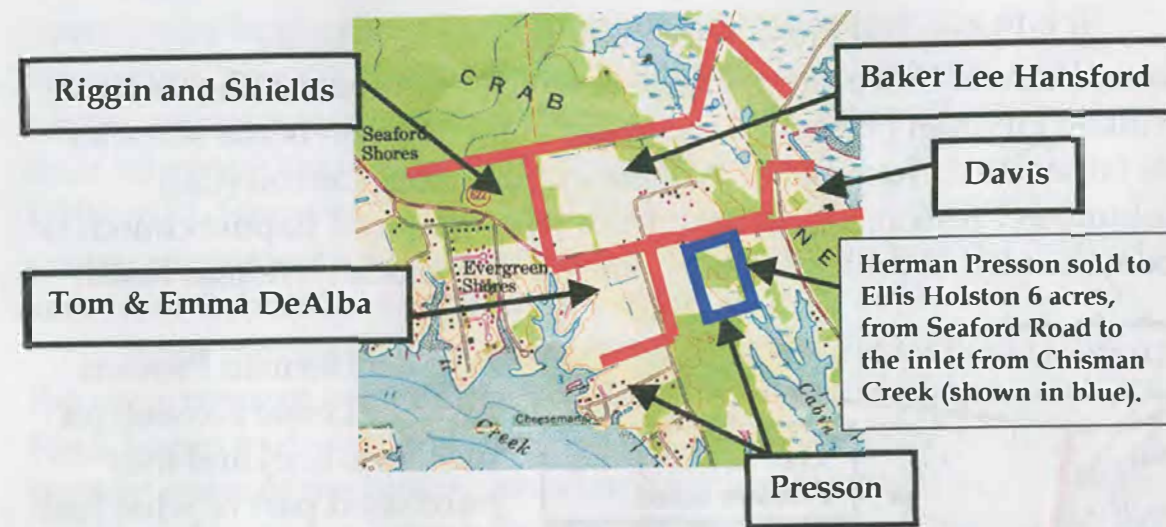


William Herman Presson married Lessie Foxwell (of the Davis line) and they purchased part of what had been the Wynne farm. He built a house near the original Wynne house. To get to the Presson houses, there was a long lane that included present-day DeAlba Lane and stretched from Crab Neck Road. They lived there until 1923.

Cal Presson married Margaret Foxwell (of the Davis line), sold his upper Chisman Creek home, and had a house constructed in the Presson field on a little point of land. He was a waterman, setting his nets nightly in Chisman Creek and selling, by horse and buggy, fresh fish up Crab Neck Road and down Lewis Drive.

There was a long lane from Crab Neck Road that reached to a crab factory on Chisman Creek (fertilizer and chicken feed were made from crab scraps). The geological survey map shows "Factory" at that location. That lane led to the point of land near present-day Wildey's Marina (Aqua Marine), now known as Wildey Road. In mid 1923, a road was constructed from Wildey Road to the Presson houses (the Wynne home site) and now is known as Presson Road. Presson descendents live in that area today, and the old Wynne Lane (from DeAlba Lane) no longer exists.

Seaford Road and Hansford Lane Area, CA. 1901 - 1923

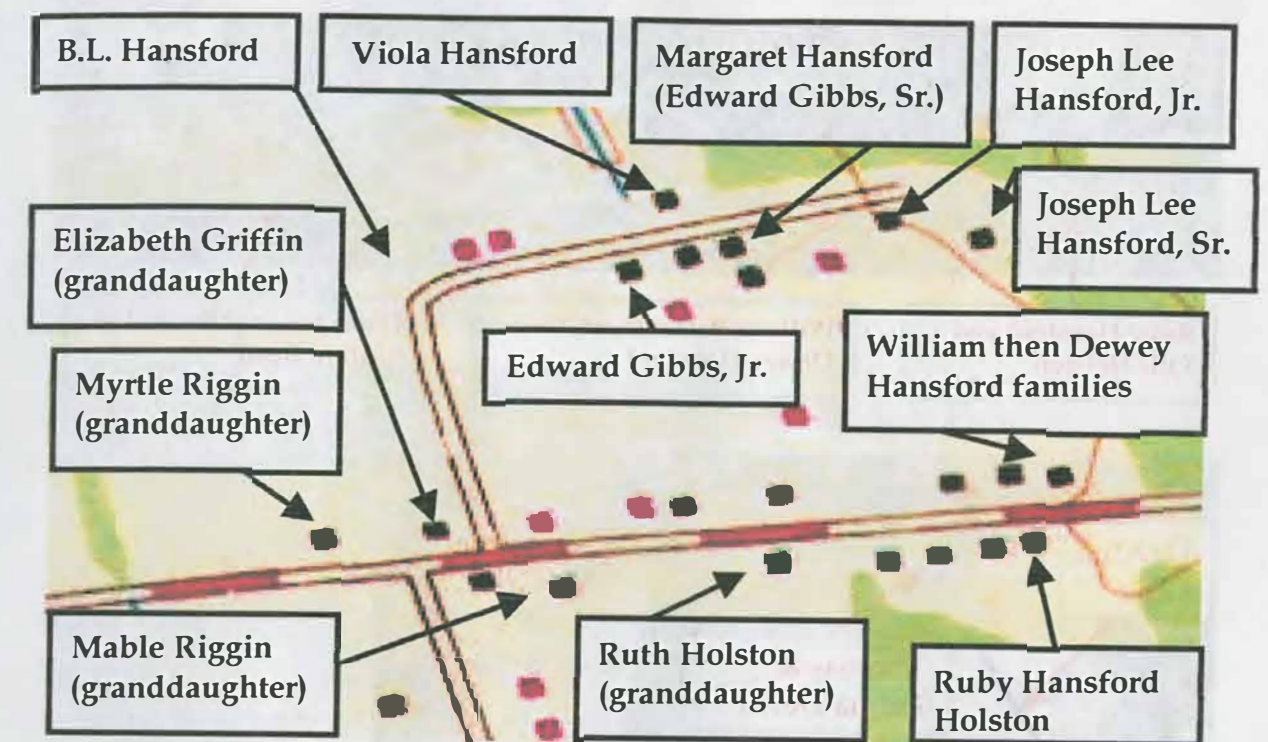


Baker Lee and Sadie Hansford purchased the Cary Crockett farm ca. 1901 and lived out their lives there. Having bought a large area, Baker Hansford was able to provide land parcels to his children. The Crocketts, Mills, Montgomery and Ironmongers, the other large landholders, applied a similar philosophy. Before and after the Civil War, these families populated Crab Neck and there was a large amount of intermarriage among these families.

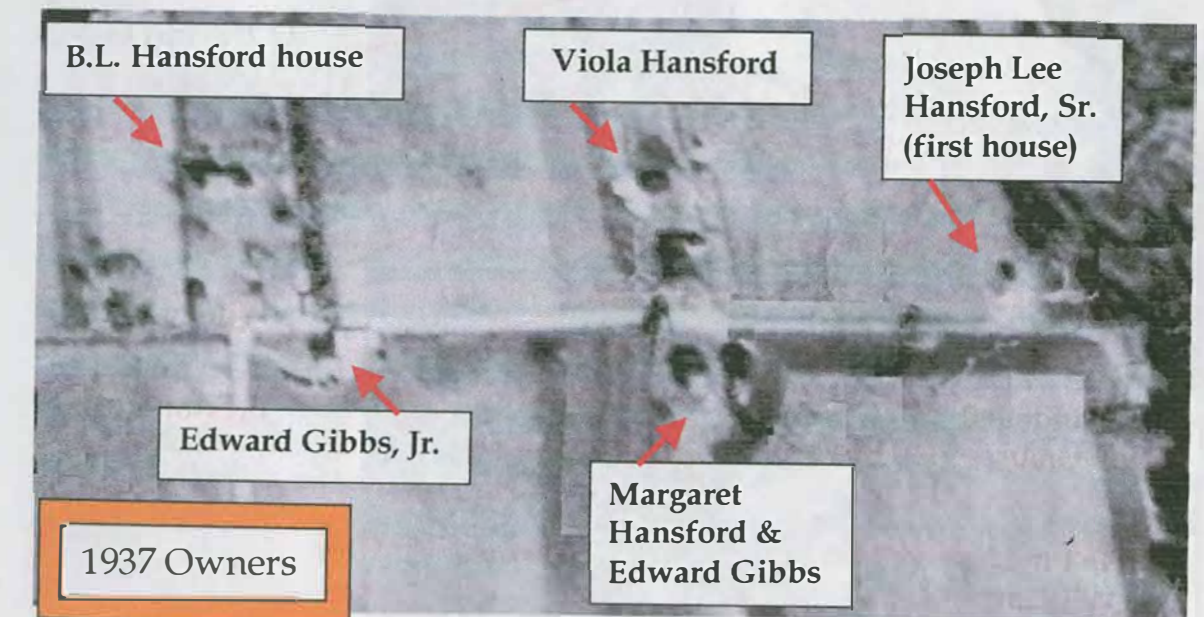
The seven surviving children of Baker and Sadie Hansford were born before the family moved to what is present-day Hansford Lane. Baker Lee farmed, took advantage of a seafood- living from Claxton Creek, and also built boats. Most of the Hansford children lived on the farm or close to it.

One child, Ruby Hansford (born 1895), married Ellis Holston, and they owned the home site that was formerly owned by Herman and Lessie Presson and before that time, Fred Burcher and his wife Willie Davis Burcher (a descendent from Davis). Viola Hansford (born 1893 and married four times - Moore, Pinkerton, Amory, Wise) lived down the road from her father, Baker Lee. These and others land holdings of the Hansford children, ca. 1901 - later 1900s, are shows on the next page. The first chart is a close-up from the 1965 geological survey map.

Seaford Road and Hansford Lane Area - 1937



A close-up of the east-west run of Hansford Lane from the 1937 aerial photo is shown below.



The next chart shows 1937 homes at the east end of Seaford Road.

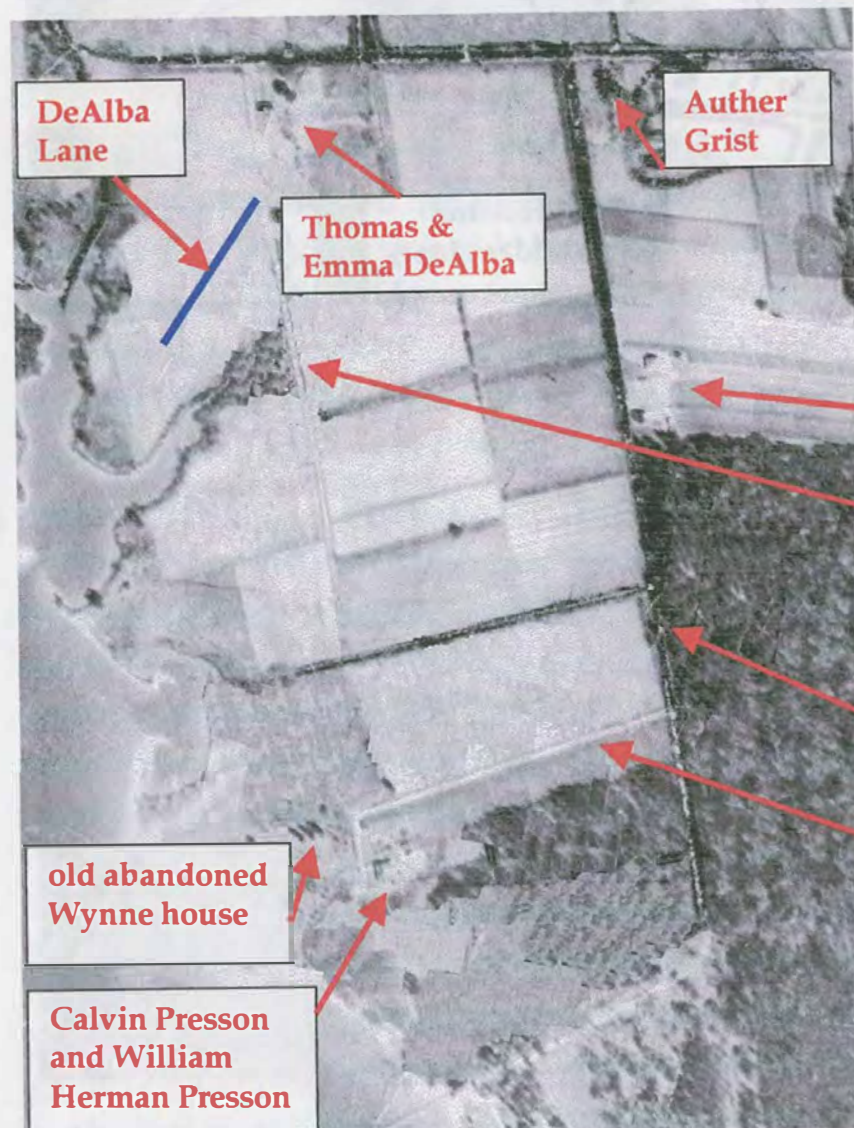
Seaford Road and Wildey/Presson/DeAlba Roads - 1937



Ruby Hansford and
Ellis Holston

William B. Hansford, then
Dewey Hansford

Davis house at the end of
Seaford Road



DeAlba
Lane

Auther
Grist

Thomas &
Emma DeAlba

Edward Carmines

Note the old lane
(DeAlba) that led
to Wynn/Presson
property from
Seaford Road.

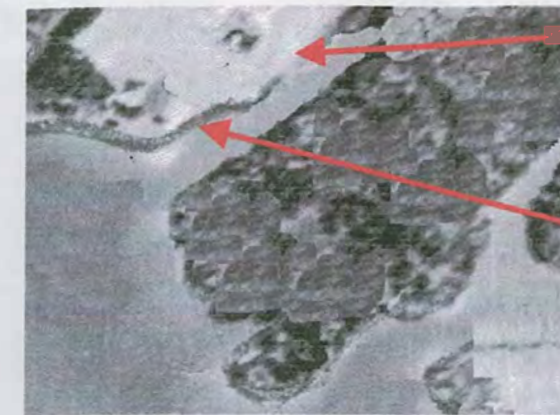
Wildey Road

Presson Road

old abandoned
Wynne house

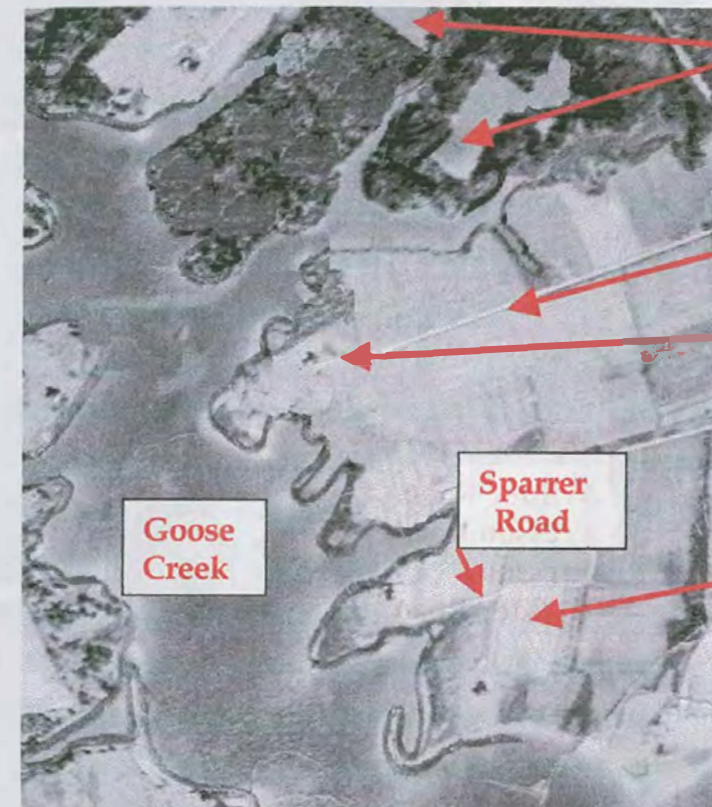
Calvin Presson
and William
Herman Presson

Seaford Road and Raymond/Blanton/August/Sparrer - 1937 Owners



John Tyler Crockett
Off of Blanton Drive

Jefferson T. Crockett
South of Blanton Drive



Middle Field

Middle Field

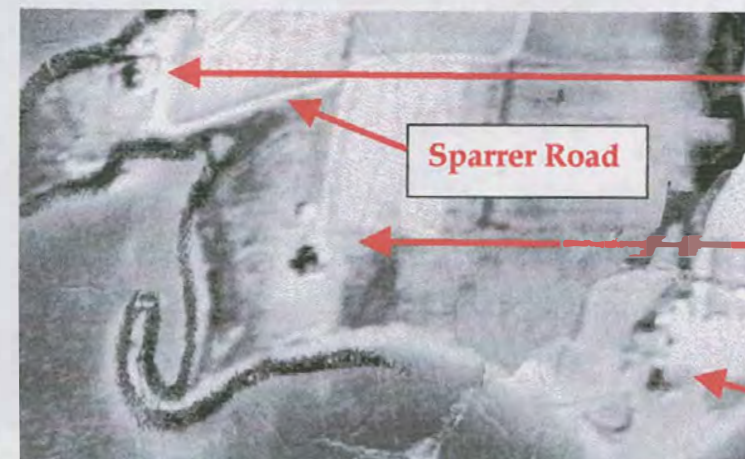
August Drive
(new name)

John Tyler Crockett
Mrs. Judson (Willie)
Crockett in 1937

Goose
Creek

Sparrer
Road

John Tyler Crockett
Land (previously
Wright, Elliott, Moss,
Rogers, Iles and
Chisman)



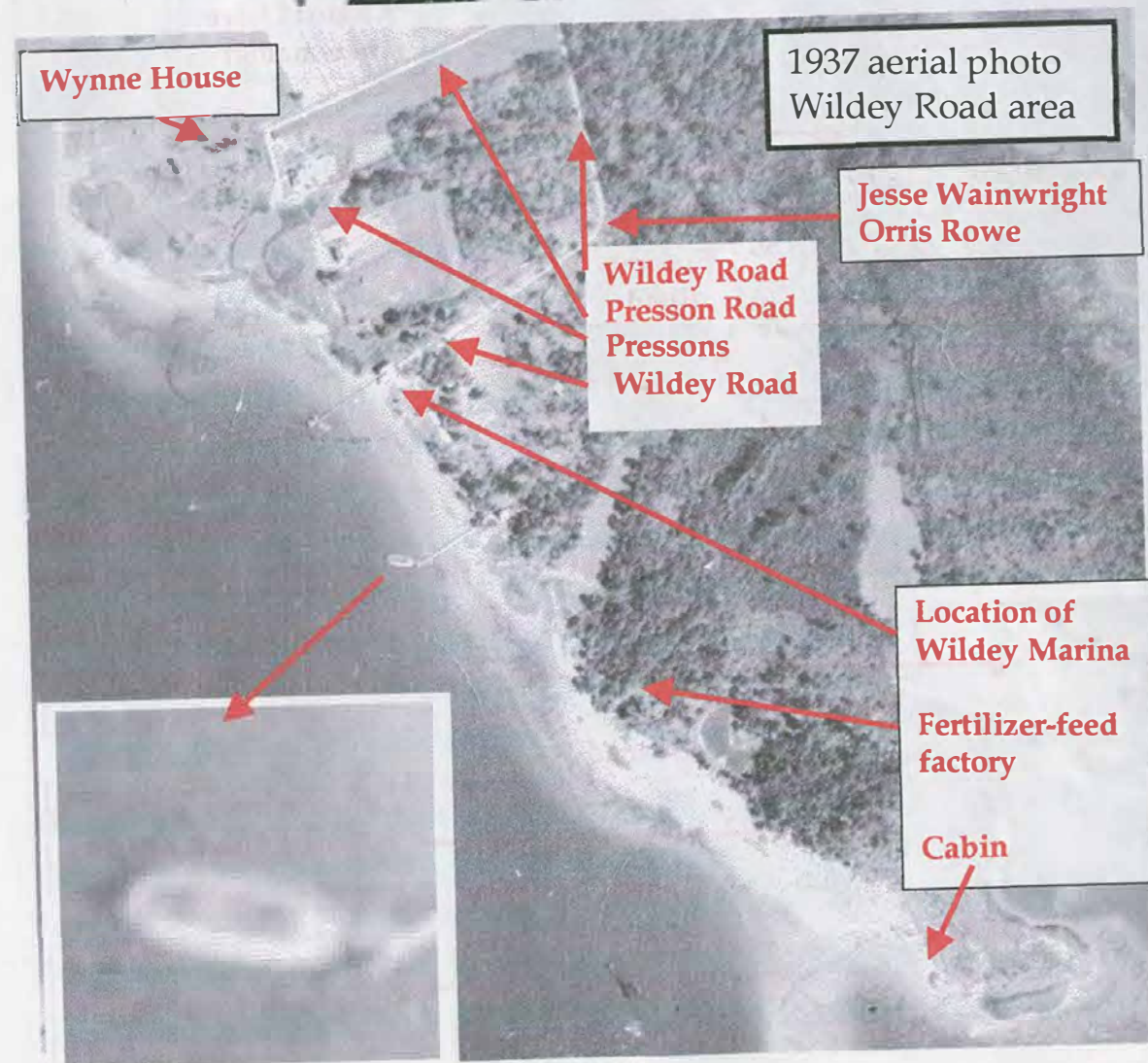
William Sparrer, Jr.
End of Sparrer Road

Luther Amory
South of Sparrer Road

William Sparrer, Sr.
West of Chisman Point

Wildey Road south and Wildey Houseboat

A long, wooded, one-lane road came into being as a result of a fertilizer and chicken feed factory being constructed on Chisman Creek southeast of Presson property. This road later became Wildey Road. Ellis Holston from Fox Hill (married Ruby Hansford) and S.D. Ironmonger were hired to transport crab scraps from Hampton to the factory dock. Later, the Wildey family, living on a houseboat, found its way to Chisman Creek and the factory's dock. They bought property and settled. A picture of the Wildey houseboat is shown below.



York Point: Development Evolution



Aerial Photos of York Point

Top left: 1937 - a dirt road went part way down the neck

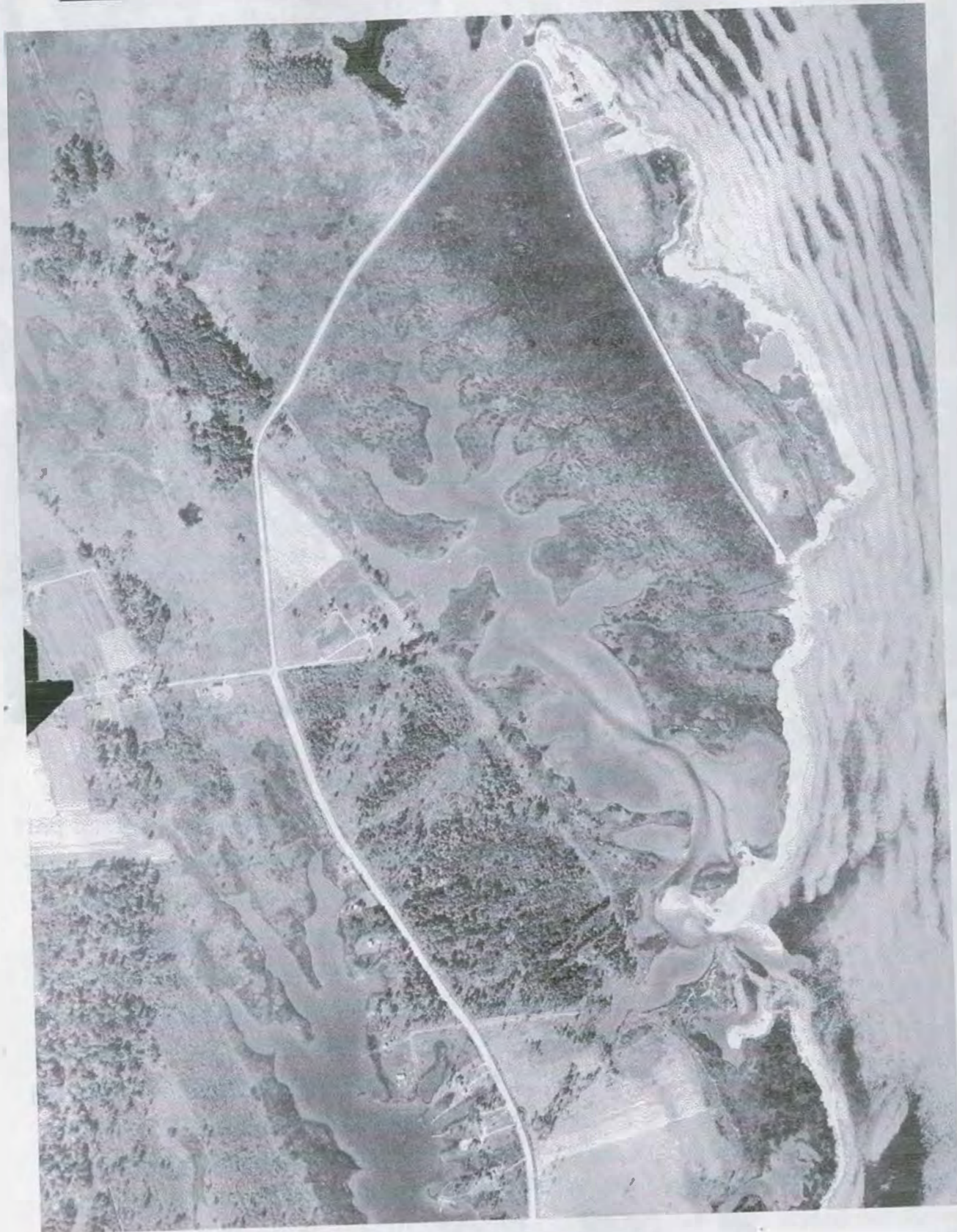
Top right: 1953 - there is a curved road, perhaps the beginning of York Point Road

Mid left: 1956 - the canals are dug and the first road
The building at the end of the road was a Coast Guard facility.

Mid right: 1975 - the finished York Point

Bottom Left: 1999

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1953 Aerial Photo of Bay Tree Neck area

Crab Neck Plantation Lands

Mills and Montgomery (Back and Shallops Creeks)

There were two side-by-side lanes, with a wire fence between them, which extended from the waters of Back Creek to beyond Claxton Creek Road. Each lane was no more than one buggy-track wide. The two side-by-side lanes joined together to form "short" Back Creek Road. The purpose of the fence: to separate the Mills and Montgomery properties. Fences enclosed the properties because cattle lived in the fields during winter and after harvest. In winter the cattle were brought in from the Bay Tree grazing area to the farms where they foraged among the gleanings in the cornfields.

Sarah Mills, a widow, and Captain John Montgomery, both of Accomack County, relocated at about the same time (ca. 1836) to the area west of Back Creek Plantation or the Ironmonger property. Many Eastern Shore families settled in Crab Neck. The Montgomery family located on the west side of the fence with its lane, and the Mills located on the east side of the fence. Shallops Creek separated the Montgomery land from the Stroud property.

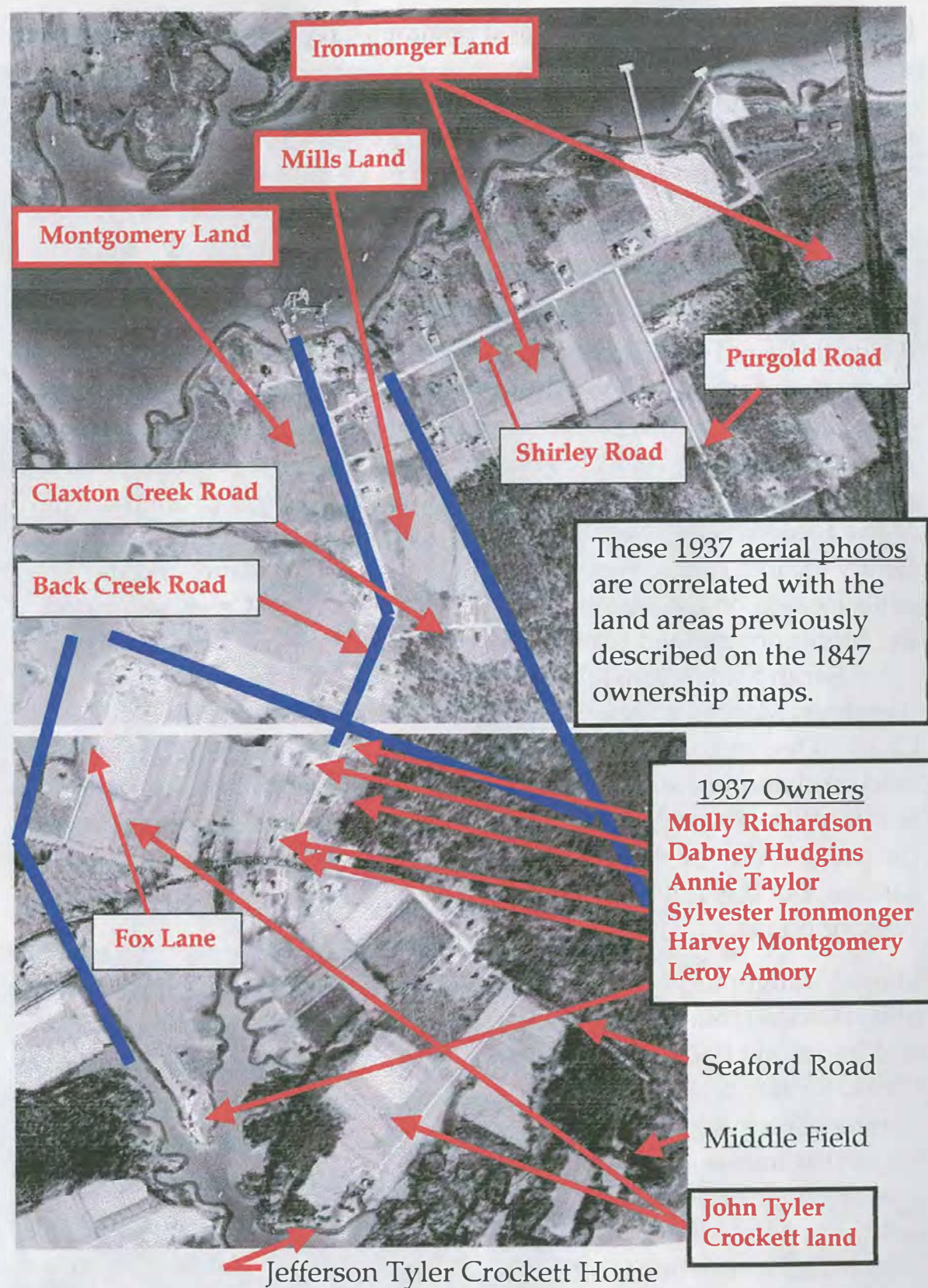
Sarah Mills's son, John Bull Mills, married John Montgomery's daughter, Margaret. They had eight children and lived on Shallops Creek. One son, John Wesley Mills, purchased some Montgomery land, and another son, Ethelbert, lived in the old Mills house built by Sarah Mills. The old Mills house was located on the same lot where the present-day Moore house is located, east and next door to Mills Marina, but it is not the same house. In 1930 Ethelbert Mills built the present house.

Many Montgomery and Mills descendents lived and live along Back Creek, Shirley and Claxton Creek Roads. Maps that follow show some of their home locations. Otis Mills established a crab house business.

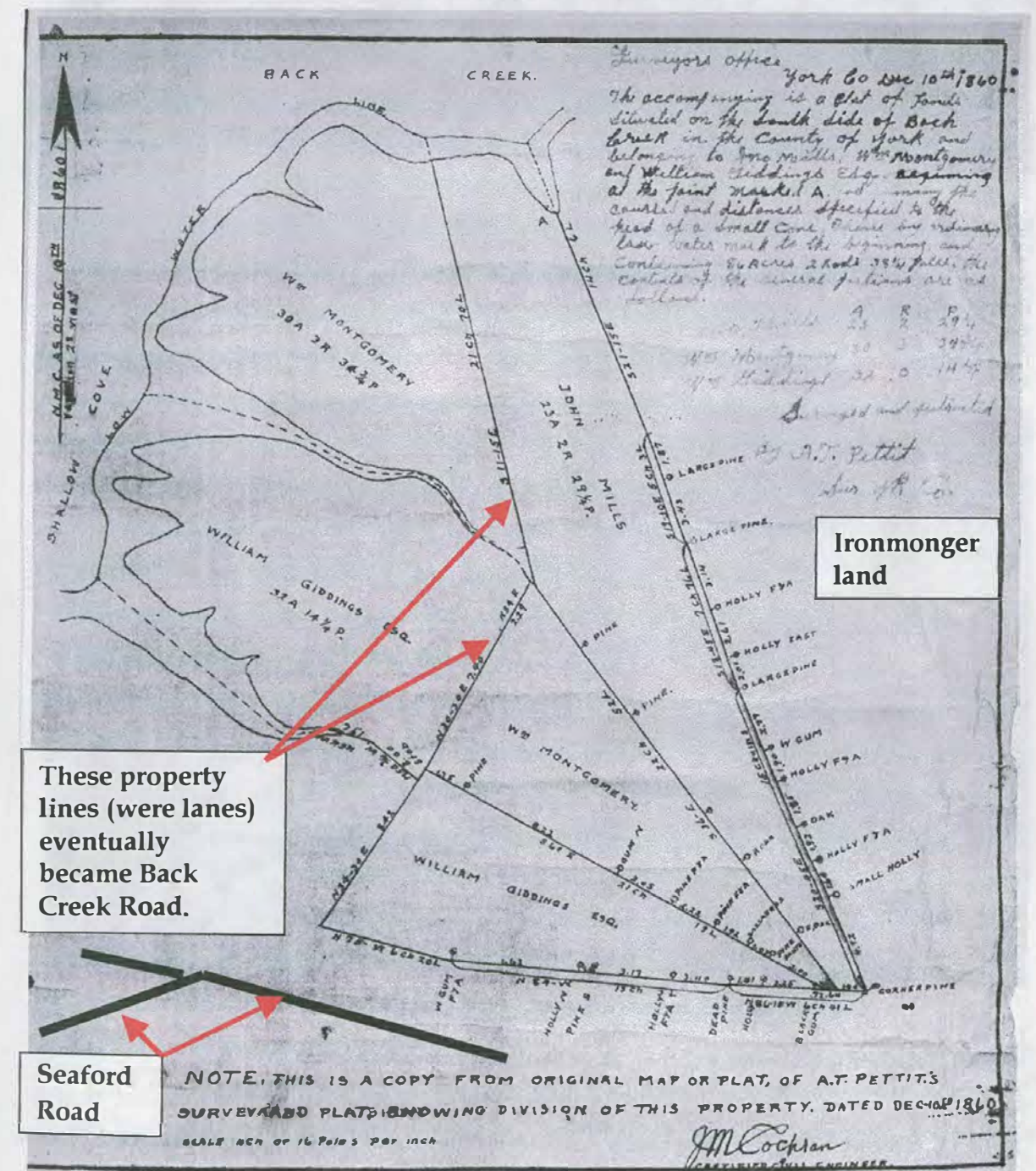


Ethelbert Mills established an oil dock and marina.

Crab Neck Plantation Lands



Presented below is a copy of an 1860-plat map of the areas of the Back Creek - Shallops Creek point, east, west and southerly along short Back Creek Road. It shows property divisions for John Mills (23 acres), William Montgomery (30 acres), and William Giddings (32 acres). The map is annotated to highlight elements and promote readability. The southeast portion of the Giddings property (approx. 16 acres) was not part of the original 69-acre tract.



Crab Neck/Seaford Students and School



Crab Neck Elementary School 1914 - 1915 Lower Grades

Front L to R: Mable Shields, Charlie Mills, Marie Slaight, Mary Richardson, Swanson Hornsby, Chris Nelson, Rob White, Herman Montgomery, Willie Wornom, Chandler Teagle, Tom Sparrer
2nd L to R: Edith White, unknown, Grace Richardson, unknown, William Nelson, Mary White, Rob Hansford, Mattie Hornsby, Bernard DeAlba, Lola Hogg
3rd L to R: Teacher, Miss Pauline Jaiser, Roy Crockett, James DeAlba, unknown, Mary Swartz, Huddie Hansford, unknown, unknown, Hays Hogge, unknown, Wessie Mills, Reggie Hansford, Norris DeAlba, Sheildie Harris



Crab Neck Elementary School 1914 - 1915 Upper Grades

Front L to R: Allen Hornsby, James Slaight, unknown, Tayler Parker, Milton Sparrer, Madeline Sparrer, Mary Parker, George Burcher, Elcye Dawson, Margaret Stroud
2nd L to R: unknown, Eunice Sparrer, Florence Parker, Bertha Mitchell, Lois Crockett, Elsie Crockett, Maggie Hansford, Aline White, Teacher, Miss Bessie Motley
3rd L to R: Dewey Hansford, John DeAlba, Tom Hornsby, Harry DeAlba, John Townsend, Horace Hansford, George Riggins, Odell Ironmonger, Herman White



Seaford School 1924 - 25 4th and 5th Graders.

Sitting L to R: Thomas Shields, Edward White, Joseph Boroski and Thaddeus Bosta. Kneeling L to R: Reginald Mills, Stanley Bosta, John Crockett, Herman Presson, David DeAlba, Sherwood Hornsby and Clarence Montgomery. Standing L to R: Lawrence Westcott, Bernard Swartz, Lucile Wornom, Elizabeth Sheilds, Henrietta Sparrer, Edna Foster, Mary Crockett, Ethel Sparrer, Louise Presson, Mildred White, Teacher Thelma Smith and Evelyn Hogge. Elevated L to R: Anna Virginia Mills, Louise Moore, Gertrude Purgold, Alice Hansforth, Elizabeth Hogge and Beatrice Parker.



Seaford School 1924 - 25 6th and 7th Graders.

Sitting L to R: James Kelly, Milton White and Wilson Hogg. Kneeling L to R: Wesley Mills, Alexander Perzan, Lewis Hogge, Calvin Presson, Thaddus Zipnikoski, Robert DeAlba and Cecil Mills. Standing L to R: Jennings Shields, Tom DeAlba, Hazel Carmines, Evelyn Purgold, Thelma Hogge, Estelle Morse, Mary Barruski, William Sparrer and Teacher Alice Greene. Elevated L to R: Norine Presson, Estelle Parker, Edward Westcott, Hedwig Zipnikoski, Rethea Hogge, Esther Crockett and Chales J. Hogg.



Seaford School 1926 - 27 4th and 5th Graders.

Sitting L to R: Moss Callis, Charles Crockett, Roland Montgomery, Junie Mills and Joe Montgomery. Second L to R: Percy Ironmonger, Otwood Powell, Joseph Ostrowski, Joseph Purgold, Charles Hornsby and Raymond Hansford. Third L to R: Virginia Ensley, Kenneth Teagle, Pauline Phillips, Archibald Taylor, Sarah Snyder, Virginia Davis and Ollie Shields. Fourth L to R: Jenny Basta, Katherine Westcott, Frances Basta, Annie Montgomery and Margaret White. Top L to R: Anna Virginia Mills, Hilda Richardson Mills, Teacher Mazzie Hunt, Elizabeth Moore and Emily Welch.



Seaford School on Back Creek Road

Snapshots



Seaford Ball Club 1928

Top L to R: Jeff White, Bernard Swartz, Bernie Sparrer, Harry White, Chris Nelson, Allen Hornsby and Bob Davis. Bottom L to R: Thom Hornsby, Tom Sparrer and William Powell.



Baker Lee Hansford



Circa 1929

L to R: Tom Sparrer, Lucile King, William Powell and Jefferson T. Crockett. They are standing in Seaford Road in front of the property between present-day Seaford Country Market and Club Way road.



Ellis and Ruby Holston home. Ellis splicing line at Mills Marina.



William (Bill) and Esther Wornom's Store and Home ca. 1932



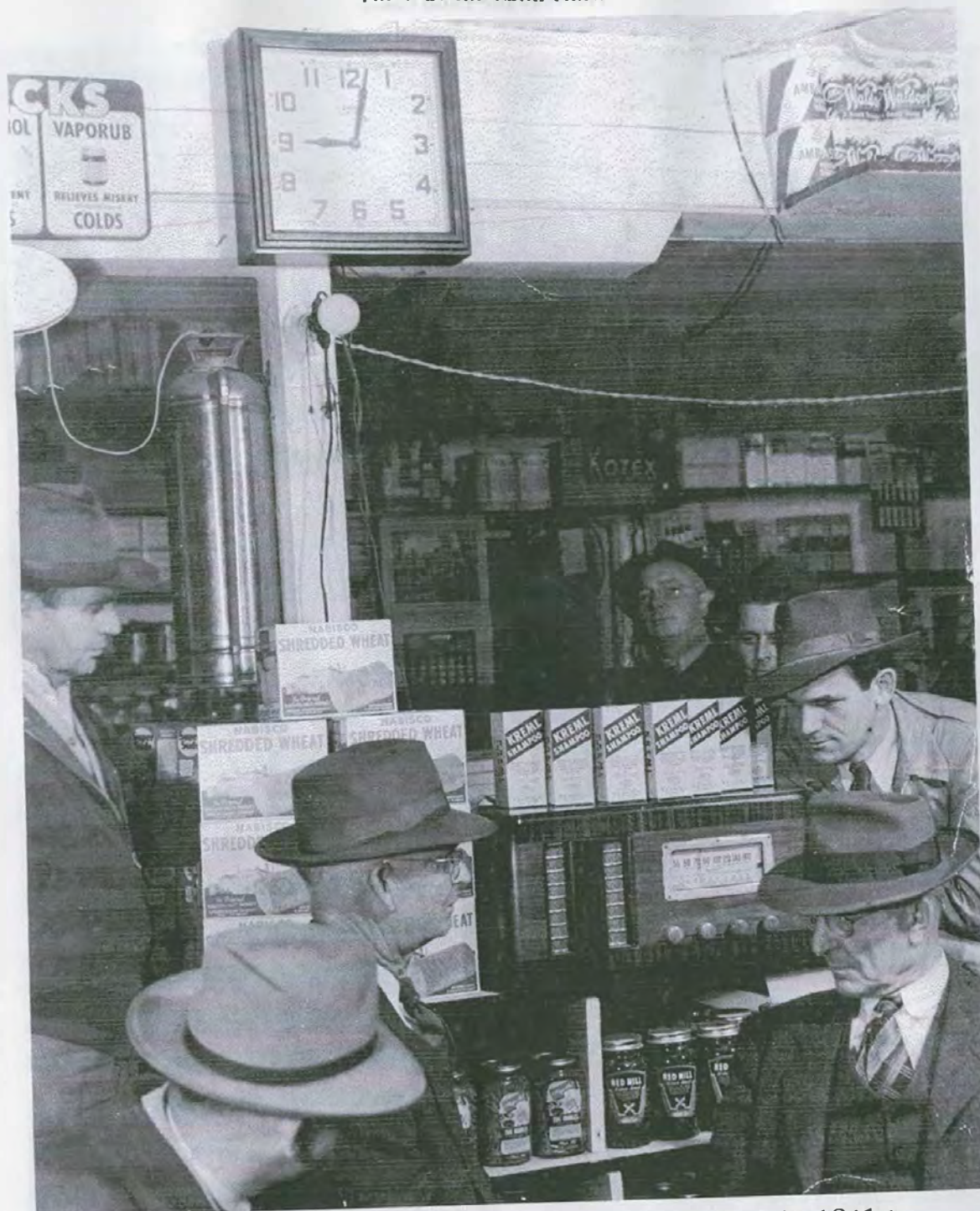
Bill Wornom as a lad
Right: Bill's mother - Etta
Ironmonger Wornom



STATEMENT	
SEAFOORD, VA.	194
M	
IN ACCOUNT WITH	
W. S. Wornom	
NORGE APPLIANCES	
GENERAL MERCHANDISE :: GAS & OIL	
PHONE YORKTOWN 2376	RESIDENCE 3921

Above: Business Statement Sheet
Right: Bill Wornom (far right)
with the Zoning Board





Crab Neck gentlemen gather in Bill Wornom's Store in 1941 to listen to news commentator Gabriel Heatter on the radio. This was shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor December 7th.

Aubrey Stroud

G.W. Mills

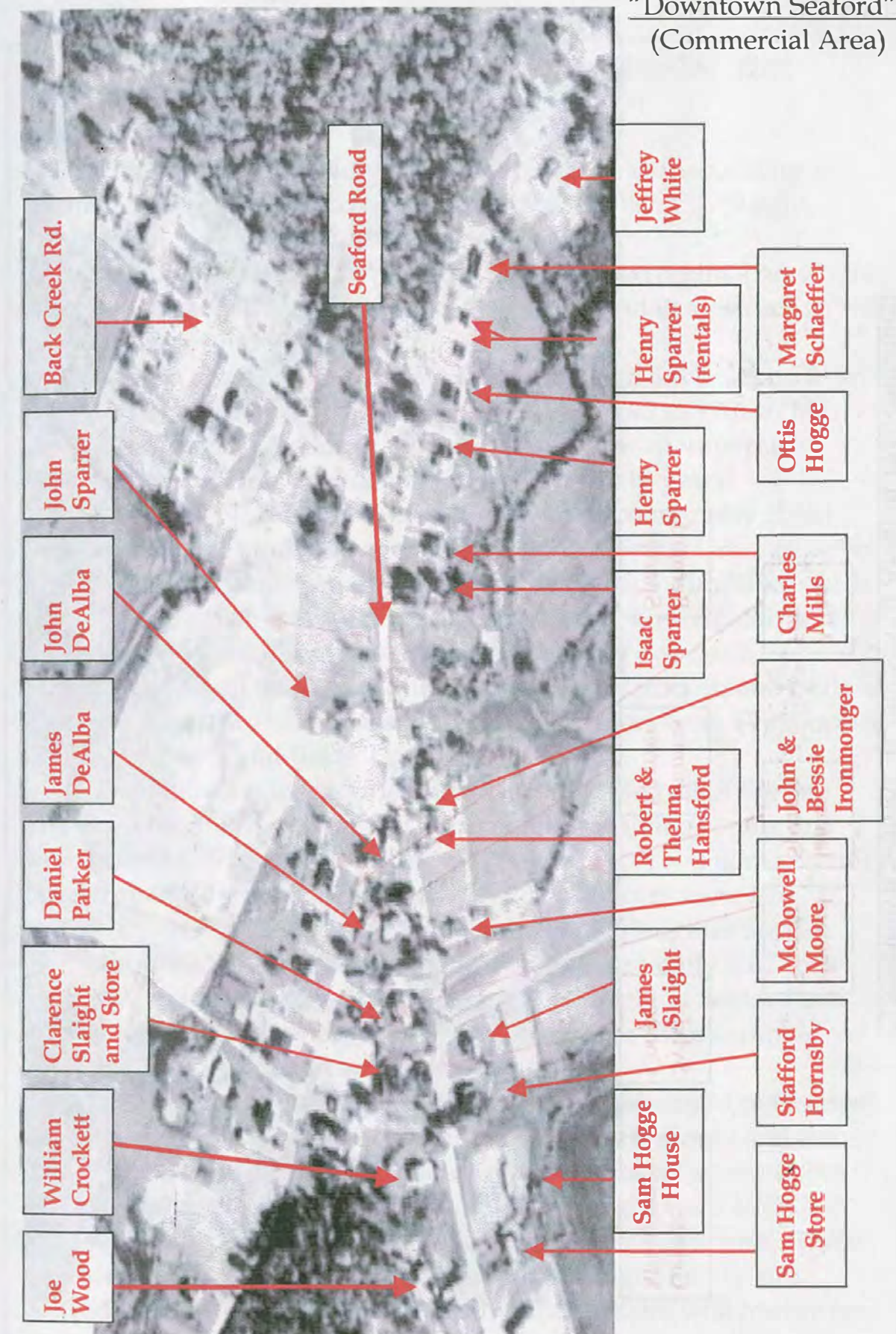
Wesley Mills

Bill Wornom

Rob Hansford

Tom Sparrer

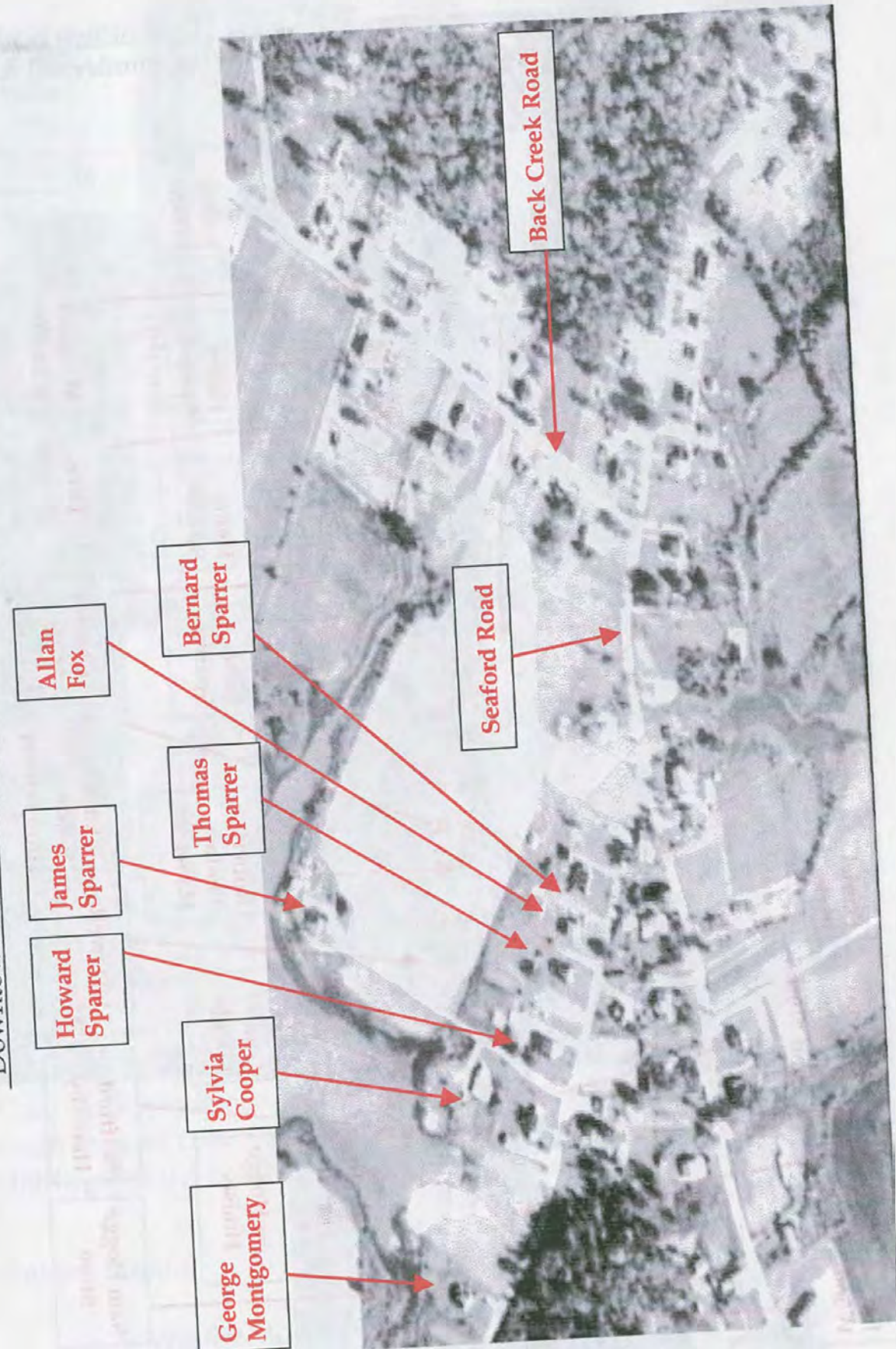
C.E. Crockett



"Downtown Seaford"
(Commercial Area)

"Downtown Seaford" (Commercial Area) in 1937

"Downtown Seaford" (Commercial Area) in 1937 continued



Razing of the Old Slaight's General Merchandise Store By Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger

The raising of the old general merchandise store building in Seaford, which was owned and operated by the late C.J. Slaight, removes another of the old landmarks.

Hammers and crowbars, in the hands of a wrecking crew, have demolished more than half of the old building, and its destruction will be complete within a few days.

Built in the 1890's by the late I.N. Hillman, a Jewish man, from Baltimore, Md. The building and business was sold in 1901 to Mr. And Mrs. Clarence Judson Slaight. The store was an important general merchandise establishment for nearly sixty years.

The late I.N. Hillman came to the Seaford community about 1890 and became store manager for the late Mr. Frank Crockett, who at that time operated a small grocery store, perhaps a hundred yards from the site which later became Slaight's Store. Mr. Hillman soon sensed the advantages of managing a store of his own, so he purchased a small tract of land from the late J.T. Crockett and built on it a small two-story frame building. The carpenters were Christopher Columbus Davis and Baker Hansford.

The Hillman General Merchandise Store filled all of the one first-floor room. On the second floor were three living rooms that were arranged for kitchen, living, and bedrooms. The Hillman family came from Baltimore to join the merchant. Members were Mrs. Hillman, two sons, Nathan and Benjamin, and a daughter Sophia.

Around the turn of the century the Hillman family sold their property, including the grocery store, to C.J. Slaight of Seaford and moved to Yorktown where they again engaged in the mercantile business. Later they moved to Portsmouth.

Clarence J. Slaight married Miss Mattie Wainwright of Grafton in 1901, and they immediately enlarged the store building and the stock. The general Merchandise and grocery section became about twice its former size, and rooms of one story height were added on both sides and back of the original two-story frame structure. These provided comfortable living quarters for the Slaight family and housed the new dry goods store and millinery salon, which were run

by Mrs. Slaight. Women came from far and near throughout the county and occasionally from adjoining counties to purchase dry goods, shoes, lingerie, cosmetics, notions, and millinery. Mrs. Slaight's milliners, who came each season from Baltimore, trimmed hats to order. Before the days of the automobile, the C.J. Slaight Department Store in Seaford was a real service to people for miles around, and a thriving trade was carried on. Customers came by boat from Poquoson, Dare and Dandy; others traveled by horse and buggy from Yorktown, Grafton, Warwick, and other communities. As transportation facilities changed and the auto replaced earlier methods of travel, shopping in Newport News and Hampton gradually caused the millinery and dry goods business to decline in the Country Store, and in the early 1940's Slaight's Millinery Department was closed. Mrs. Slaight continued to sell dry goods, shoes, notions etc.

After the death of Mr. And Mrs. Slaight their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. And Mrs. Clifton G. Hogg, managed the store. A few years ago, following the death of Mr. Hogg, the property was sold to a Mr. McGhee of Newport News, who ran the store only a very short time. The buildings were closed; the remaining stock was sold, and without continued upkeep and repairs the structure, which once was a thriving business, has fallen into dilapidation.

Recently it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Simpson of Seaford whose land adjoins it, and the house having become untenable, is being demolished. Thus passes an old landmark, which for more than half a century contributed much to the comfort and convenience of residents of Seaford and the surrounding area.

Excerpts from The Postal Service for Seaford, Virginia

This section of the county was known as Crab Neck before there was a post office located here. Prior to 1889, residents of the Crab Neck area received their mail at Yorktown. This was a far from convenient service over country dirt roads, by horseback or horse drawn transportation and it is reasonable to assume that there were many days when no one in the community had "gotten the mail".

Indeed a once-a-week trip to the county seat by one or another neighbor, bringing back any letters that might have arrived for various families in the area, was not an unusual arrangement.

In 1889 plans were made for the establishment of a post office, and a record from the General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. reveals that the Crab Neck post office, York County Virginia was established December 23, 1889 with William H. Hornsby, the first post master. The outgoing mail was routed to Grafton, and from Grafton to Oriana and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. [See Cockletown Corridor.]

The first Crab Neck post office was kept in the General Country store of W.H. Hornsby situated on Back Creek Road; an old Confederate War Fort, just across the road to the east of Hornsby's store was an early landmark.

On March 7, 1896 Benjamin F. Crockett became postmaster and the office was moved to a pre-war store building hard-by Hillman's general store. It was a log building on the north side of the road and was razed many years ago; the site was a very short distance below the new brick Seaford post office building being erected now - February 1964. [This building is just west of the newest building] B.F. Crockett was postmaster four years and following the presidential election, a change of postmasters was in order, according to one's political party affiliation.

On March 6, 1900 William H. Hornsby was again appointed postmaster for Crab Neck, and the office was located again in his general store. There was an unsettled situation, for it remained in Hornsby's store only eleven days, when Ethelbert W. Crockett was appointed postmaster March 17, 1900. He erected a small frame building in which the Crab Neck post office was located, on the northeast corner of his farm, fronting on Seaford Road.

In the meantime certain business interests presented a possibility for the need of a second post office in the extreme eastern section of Crab Neck. The York Lumber Company, with Joe Whispell manager, had been formed in Fish Neck [Dare]. Their lumber mill was near Poquoson River and thus barges and rafts carried timber logs.

Among the many tracts of timber sold to the mill, was that of one share of the estate of the late James Ironmonger, situated in Crab Neck. The Lumber Company built a dummy track from a point of land bordering on Chisman's Creek, overland, into the Ironmonger timber tract where the logs were cut, pulled out by horse-drawn carry-logs, loaded on log trucks that traveled the dummy track by horse power to the water's edge where they were transported on Chisman's Creek and Poquoson River by raft to the mill. The point of land thus used in Crab Neck was a part of the late Whittington Crockett estate, his son Frank Crockett having inherited this section. Benjamin F. Crockett, son of Frank Crockett, built a small country store at the Landing (which is now E.A. Smoot property), to accommodate the group of lumbermen engaged in this enterprise. The trade seemed to justify an attempt for a post office to be located in the little store. Application was made and on August 6, 1900 Calamar Post Office was established, with Benjamin F. Crockett its postmaster. Evidently the business venture was short-lived; movement of the timber was completed and the lumbermen moved their activities to some other area.

Slaight's Wharf on Back Creek had steamer service at this time, a part of the river steamboat system from Norfolk, Old Point, Yorktown, Gloucester Point, and up the Chesapeake Bay. A general store and post office at Slaight's Wharf seemed a good business venture, so Benjamin F. Crockett dismantled his store building on Chisman's Creek and rebuilt it at the Wharf on Back Creek, moving the Calamar Post Office with the store. J.Y.S. Slaight and his son E.E. Slaight, owners of the Wharf, petitioned the Post Office Department to have the name of the post office of Calamar changed. Accordingly, on December 23, 1900 Calamar was changed to SEAFORD Post Office. Crockett was its only postmaster, for it was discontinued on March 30, 1901, having been in existence only seven and three-quarters months.

While the post office of Calamar was becoming established, serving its short period of time and being discontinued, the main postal service for the community was progressing satisfactorily in the Crab Neck Post Office under Ethelbert W. Crockett's management.

The small frame building erected in 1900 was moved together with the post office equipment, to the west side of the same farm and service was uninterrupted until May 2, 1907, when Ethelbert W. Crockett died. Within the month, another change took place and the office was moved by May 29, 1907 back to the William H. Hornsby store, with Hornsby again appointed as its postmaster.

There were those in Crab Neck who preferred a more dignified and/or "polished" name for their community, so the Post Office Department was again petitioned for a change of name. This request was granted and the Crab Neck Post Office became SEAFORD Post Office on November 15, 1910; Mr. Hornsby continued as its postmaster until 1914.

Clarence J. Slaight was appointed postmaster of the Seaford Post Office on April 16, 1914. (Woorow Wilson, a Democrat, had been elected President, so even postmasters were selected along party lines.) The postal facilities were moved into Slaight's General Store on Seaford Road near three former sites of the office.

The next change came on October 22, 1920 when Gaston A. Wornom was appointed postmaster and the office was moved up the Seaford Road a few hundred yards to Wornom's General Store where it remained two years. (Warren G. Harding, a Republican had been elected President, so appointed officers were changed.)

On November 7, 1922 William H. Hornsby became postmaster of the Seaford Post Office for the fourth time. Again space in his general store was utilized for the post office equipment. He died April 18, 1923 and his son, Oscar F. Hornsby, was appointed June 6, 1923 as postmaster of the Seaford office, which continued to function in the general store.

Three years later, Mrs. Margaret M. Powell, a daughter of W.H. Hornsby, was appointed on August 6, 1926, postmistress of the Seaford office, which appointment she continued to fill for twenty-one years. During her term of office the postal service was located in a room adjoining Dr. L.O. Powell's office.

Meanwhile the automobile and motorized mail truck had replaced the earlier methods of transportation by horseback and horse and buggy, as hard surfaced roads replaced country dirt roads.

Sometime before 1930, the mail route to and from Seaford was changed from Grafton-Oriana to Yorktown-Lee Hall and thence over the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.

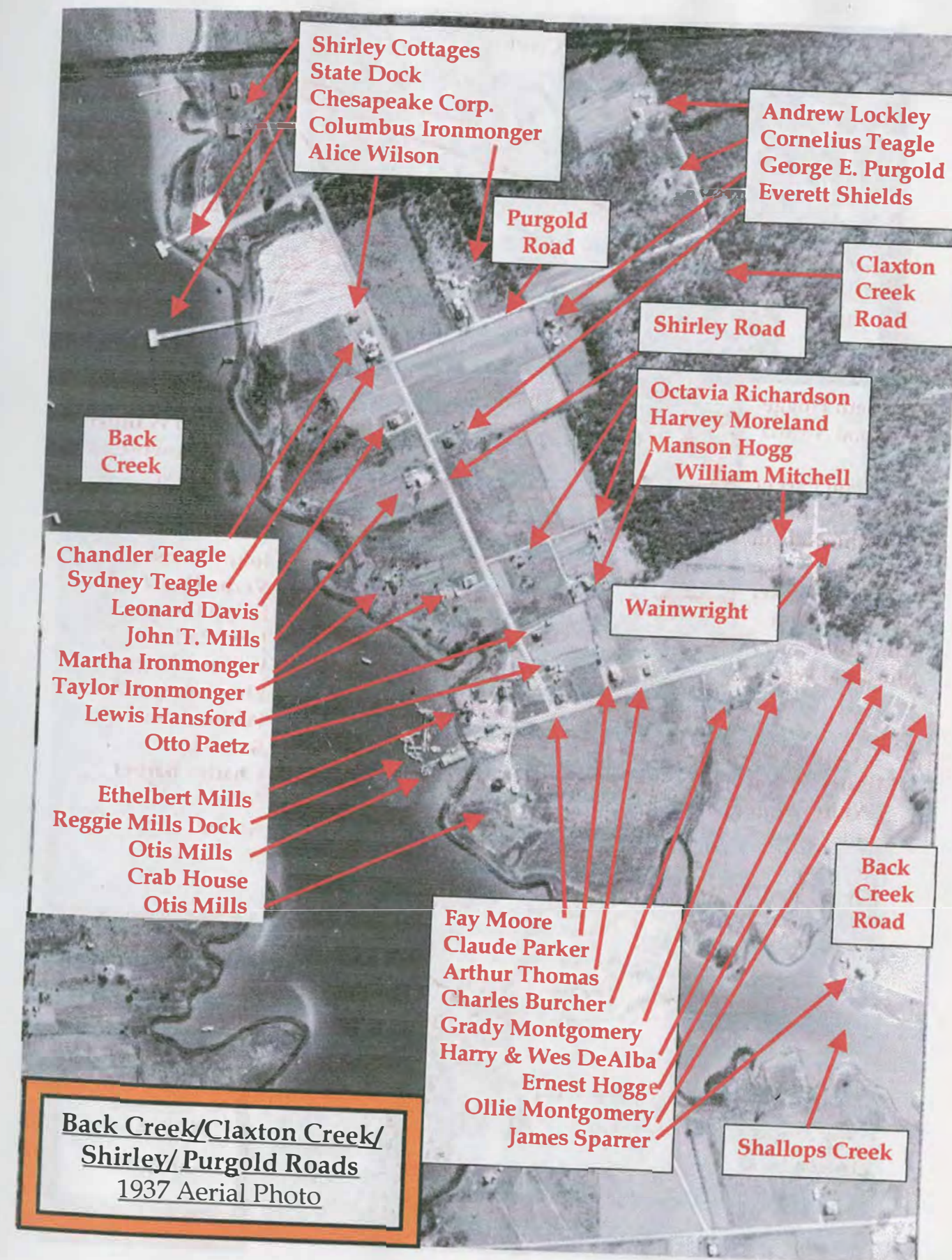
Allen Moss Callis, who served as postmaster 1947-48, when he resigned, followed Mrs. Powell. His wife, Mrs. Meryl Callis, was acting postmistress for about a year. She was appointed to the office August 1949. The Post Office equipment was located in a modest building on Back Creek Road.

On November 15, 1955 rural free delivery from Yorktown into Seaford and other areas of York County was begun. The new service was provided on two routes operating out of the Yorktown post office. Route one included the several named roads, streets, and lanes of Seaford. While this service benefited many residents of Seaford, others preferred the local post office patronage.

With the increasing population and expansion of residences, it became necessary to have a new and larger post office building here. Proper steps were taken and in January 1964 contract for a brick building to be constructed and leased to the Post Office Department was awarded to Clarence White of Knotts Island, N.C. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy by May; then the Seaford Post Office will move again to Seaford Road. Perhaps there will be inscribed on its walls the famous post office motto, the well known but often misquoted words of Herodotus, a Greek historian, describing the messages used in the struggle between Persia and Asia in the fourth Century B.C., "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."



The front part of the building was the Seaford Post Office from 1926 - 1946. The back part was Dr. Powell's office. A partition separated the two. The house on the opposite side was the home of Dr. Powell.







1953 Aerial Photo
Crab Neck along the west
end of Back Creek

Seaford Post Office on "Long"
Back Creek Road 1947 - 48

Crab Neck Industry

Purgold

George Edward Purgold, ca. 1910, established a marine railway and sawmill on Back Creek located in the vicinity of Ironmonger Lane, off Shirley Road. The property, on which these businesses were located, was in part owned by Mr. Purgold, and in part leased from Chandler Teagle. The businesses may have operated for four or five years, but because of liberality in extending credit and non-payment of money owed, the businesses failed.

Apparently, at the same time George Purgold owned these businesses (ca. 1910-1914) he was also an agent (distributor) for the J.W. Lathrop Company, a manufacturer of marine and stationary gasoline engines. He received commissions on the sale of engines and related parts. His workshop had pieces and parts of these engines in cabinet bins labeled "Lathrop", and he may have had indirect responsibility for introduction of the first gasoline engine powered boat on Back Creek. The photos (J.W. Lathrop and Josie), provided here, show early versions of gasoline-powered boats.



This deed made this 15th, day of July. in the year 1910. between C. S. Teagle, and his wife Eliza. Teagle, and G. E. Purgold, witnesseth that the said C. S. Teagle and his wife, doth demise unto the said G. E. Purgold, his personal representative and assigns all that certain piece or parcel of land situated on Back Creek, in Seaford, York Co, Virginia. and and is discribed as follows, beginning at the Creek on the line between S. C. Ironmonger, and the lessor and running Southerly to a Gate post then Easterly to an Apple Tree then Northerly to a Pear Tree then Easterly to a Post then Northerly to a Cedar stob at ordinary low water mark, 100 feet from starting point then in a Westerly direction along said creek to starting point and the said G. E. Purgold, shall have all the creek front that belongs to the said C. S. Teagle, deeded to him by Mrs. Sadie. C. Teagle, from the 15th, day of July. 1911. for the term of 25 Years thence ensuing yeilding therefore during the said term the rent of one hundred and fifty dollars. \$150.00 paid in hand the receipt is hereby given. And the said C. S. Teagle. covenants that the said G. E. Purgold, shall have a 100 ft creek front. And the said C. S. Teagle, covenants for the lessee quiet enjoyment of his term. and the said C. S. Teagle, covenants that he shall have a free pass way to the creek. for said term. And the said G. E. Purgold, covenants that he will not put the saw dust on the tenable land but will put it in the marsh with the exception of a pile of sawdust for the purpose of forming a logway and a drive way to said logway. and that the lessor may re enter for the breach of any covenants.

Seal. *C. S. Teagle*
 Seal. *Mrs. Eliza Teagle*
 Seal. *G. E. Purgold*

Captain Eddie Purgold helped install the first telephone lines connecting Newport News, Yorktown and Williamsburg just after the turn of the century. He is believed to have been the first York County resident to own an automobile, a 1907 chain driven Ford with the motor under the seat; also, the first to own a radio.

There is an old building on the south side of Shirley Road that served as Mr. Purgold's workshop. Among the items there is a three-foot diameter saw blade used at the sawmill.

Capt. Eddie Purgold went to work at the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station (Naval Mine Depot) in 1919 and retired in 1940. He returned in 1943 and remained for the duration of World War II. He made a visit to the station in 1959. The photo commemorates that visit.



George E. Purgold, left, is shown with Captain O. D. Waters, Jr. during his visit to the Station on 19 March 1959

G. E. PURGOLD
 MECHANICAL ENGINEER
 REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE **J. W. Lathrop Co. Marine AND Stationery Gasoline Engines**
 Agent for the Davis Acetylene Gas Machine
 All Kinds of Repair Work and Fittings at Reasonable Prices
 MACHINE WORK OF ALL KINDS
 Marine Railway and Machine Shop
Seaford, Va.
 1911

J. W. LATHROP CO. CREDIT MEMO.
 MARINE AND STATIONARY GASOLINE ENGINES
S. E. Purgold *SEAFORD, VA.*
 33072. We have Credited your account the following:
 Com. 20% on 45.00 9.00
 B. B. W. to H. E. Miller, Hampton, Va.

Notice on the letterhead of the Purgold stationary shown above that Seaford replaced Crab Neck as the location of the business.

Ironmonger

Wesley Ironmonger and his father, Capt. Jake (J.D.) Ironmonger went into the pound pole fishing business, ca. 1910 in the spring of the year. Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger, wife of Wesley, and their children best tell this story entitled "Wesley Ironmonger's Fishing Days". What follows are excerpts from their story.

Wesley Ironmonger's Fishing Days

They ordered from Baltimore, seine, cork, and leads to make two pounds (or nets). They went into the woods and cut pound poles from tall pine trees. They started on shaping two pounds in February and began to drive pond poles out in the Chesapeake Bay in March.

Ben Curtis, a colored man, was hired to help with the work of driving pond poles and setting the pounds. When this was completed, Ben went with them each day down the bay to the pound

stands to fish the nets. Ben was called "Uncle Ben" and all the children and family loved him.

Wesley had a nice big canoe named the *Mattie*. He sold it and bought a smaller fishing boat, the *Mohea*, and also the *Dolly Coon* to use in fishing the pounds. Later he got the *Murphy*.

These pound nets remained setting from February until the middle of May.

For fishermen the days started about 4:30 in the morning. We would set the clock to alarm at 4:30 and hurriedly cook breakfast by lamplight. I would pack Wesley's lunch bucket with two biscuits and ham for sandwiches, a half pint of stewed fruit, and a slice of cake. By 5:15 the three men gathered down at Grandpa Jake's landing, went aboard the boat, turned on the engine and went many miles down the Chesapeake Bay to the pound stands. After fishing their nets each day, they went into the Back River fish market, sold their catch and returned home in early afternoon.

They had a successful season in the spring of 1910. The next year they prepared and set three pound stands. This required mending the nets, while dry and on land. It also required more poles. This meant cutting trees, skinning them and sharpening the end for ease in putting them in the river bottom.

About 1915 they added a fourth pound and continued to hire Ben Curtis to help with the work. Later a second colored man, Winslow Lester, was hired. They fished five or six more years before taking on Luther, Wesley's brother, to help. Luther served in World War I during 1918, and so it was likely that it was 1920 when he joined the group. [A picture below shows the three mending nets.]

Notice the hip boots, and of course, the oilskins worn out on the water. The little house in the background was called "Grandpa's cottage." It was just outside the yard of the main house. (It was built for a northern soldier, Uncle Charlie Palfrey, before 1907.)



Jake Wesley Luther

The pound fishing business was hard work. The men were exposed to cold and often rough weather, but it paid well financially. We were able to clear a debt and to have a bank account.

To this story Estelle Ironmonger Tyler, daughter of Wesley, provides the following addition.

I remember coming in from school and asking what we were having for supper. Often, it seemed to me, the answer was "fish". My reply was usually, "old fish." We always had a variety, and especially good fish. I didn't then appreciate fish. I also recollect that if regulation sturgeon was caught, I enjoyed their steak. Small sturgeon had to be thrown back into the water, so I guess even then we had endangered species.

I cannot recall when papa quit working the water. I know he sold the *Murphy* to Lloyd Richardson, who later ran it over a broken-off pound stake in the Chesapeake Bay. Lloyd drowned. The worker with him, Coleman Gibbs, was able to make it to shore. The men of the community spent the next day, Sunday, on their boats hunting for Lloyd. They found him caught in the nets. He had perished from exposure.

This time frame is fixed in my mind, because in January 1928, I wrecked the Model A Ford sister and I drove to the College of William and Mary. The car was a complete wreck with no top or fender left. Papa sold it to Lloyd for \$60. It was not long after this before Lloyd was drowned.

I think papa then went to work with the Newport News Shipyard.

To this story Thelma Ironmonger Hansford, daughter of Wesley, provides the following addition.

There was a skill involved in pound fishing. I had never realized this until I recently read *Beautiful Swimmers* by William W. Warner, a story about the blue crab, but much about the Chesapeake Bay and the water industries.

The author spoke of pound fishing as a dying art once employed all along the entire Atlantic Coast line. The people were often referred to as "Masters of the long pole."

The activity was performed in deep water, probably thirty or forty feet in depth. The stakes were driven in wintertime – February – and drawn-up in May. These pound stakes, so familiar to us children, were cut from selected tall pine trees, and after cutting, had to be drawn from the woods, skinned and sharpened at one end. The average pound pole was sixty-five feet in length and at least one-fourth was driven into the ocean bottom. Papa and grandpa used a pile driver sometimes, but most of the heavy striking was done with large wooden mallets or mauls. To set twenty to forty poles in one day with physical strength was considered a good accomplishment. Each pound they set required at least one hundred and thirty poles. Of this number sixty or seventy were sunk in a straight line for about one thousand feet and this was called a “hedge.” The net strung to this was perpendicular to the prevailing current and intercepted the school of fish. Thirty-six more stakes were needed to create a pair of curved heart-shaped wings that massed and gathered together the fish. Through a funnel at the apex of the turnbacks, this fish were directed to a holding area. Joined to the main pound was another funnel that led to a rectangular-shaped pocket about fifteen by thirty feet that was walled and floored with net into which the fish swam on flood tide. From this the men removed their catch. Twenty-two more poles were needed for the funnels, the main pound and the trap or pocket, and an additional seven or eight for braces to support the weight of the tons of fish.

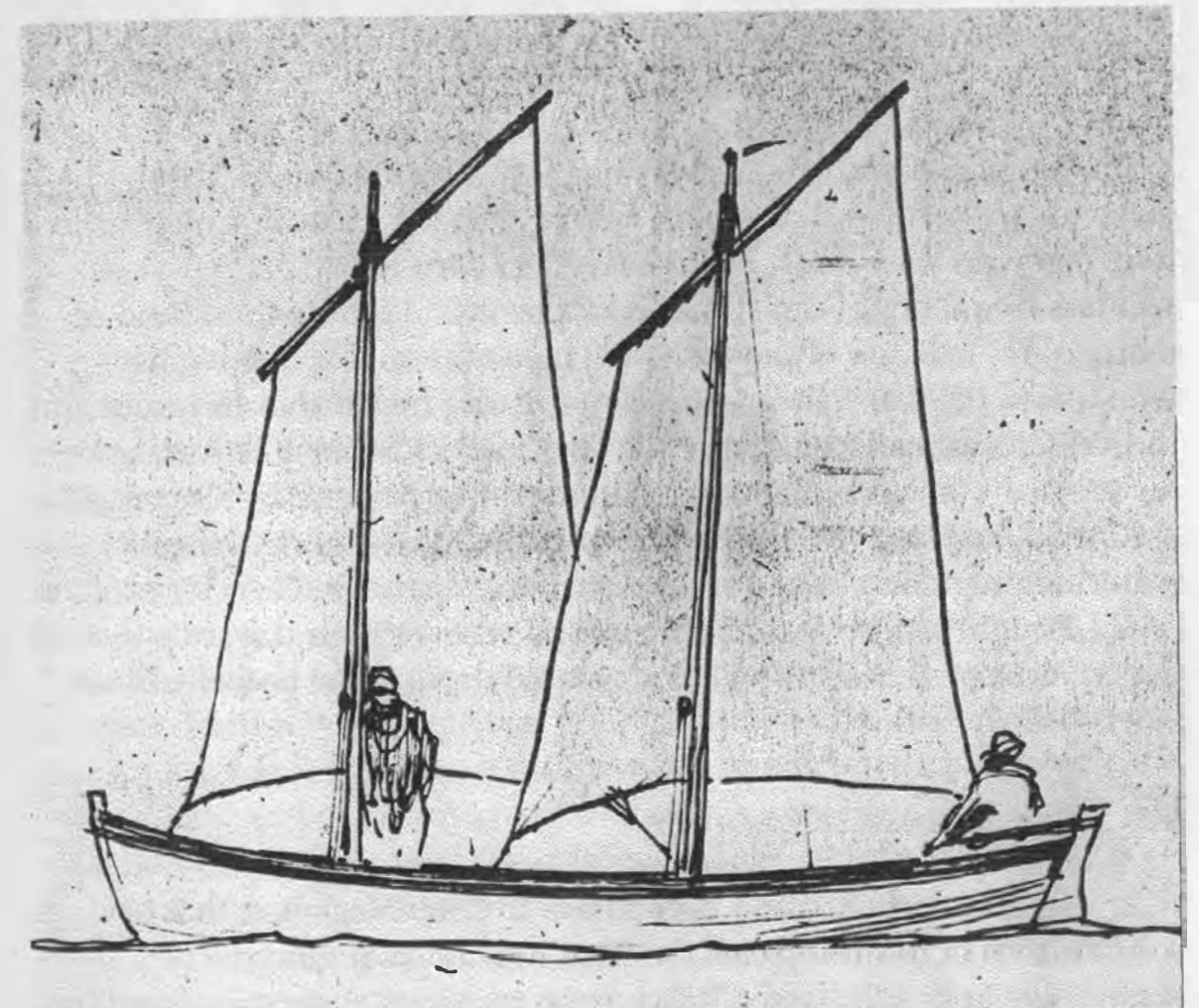
After the pounds were set, then came the waiting and expectation for the run of the various fish: herring, alewives, croakers, and, of course the shad.

Hauling in the catch required further skills. Papa, grandpa and the crew were in the big boat that was about forty-five feet long, and towing behind it was another boat as much as thirty feet in length. There was a specific way to maneuver these two boats in order to dump the fish from these nets – which were in deep water – into the smaller boat and also return the nets for the next catch. They had to work fast, using their hands and their knees, manipulating tons of live fish in rapid tidal current.

As the men left the pounds and preceded home, the captain, whoever it happened to be, steered and handled the big boat. The

remainder of the crew sorted the fish into various species for sale at the market, in the Back River of Hampton.

The season for pound fishing is short, from February into May. It is hard work and requires great skill and endurance. It carries many risks: storms, accidents, and size of the catches. However, pound fishing was profitable and these men well provided for their families. I believe they even enjoyed their work, especially when fish were running well. [See the book *Back Creek Plantation*.]



A shallop, is a small, light boat. This type of boat was moored in the southern branch of Back Creek, and was the occasion for the naming of that body of water as Shallops Creek.

Carpentry

Wesley Ironmonger was engaged in carpenter work and contracting to build houses. Some of the houses he built included homes for Dick Wood, Wiley Crockett, Duty Jefferson, Missouri Whitting, Jeff White and Horace Hansford. Later he built Ollie Montgomery's home, but by then he was more interested in steady public work for example, the shipyard, Ft. Eustis and the restoration of Williamsburg. He worked on the Slaights house in Yorktown, for the Williamsburg restoration in 1929, Bob Anderson's home, and the sanctuary of the Zion Church.

Watermen

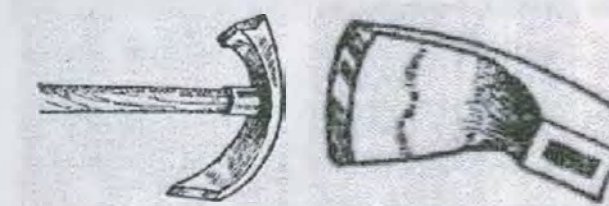
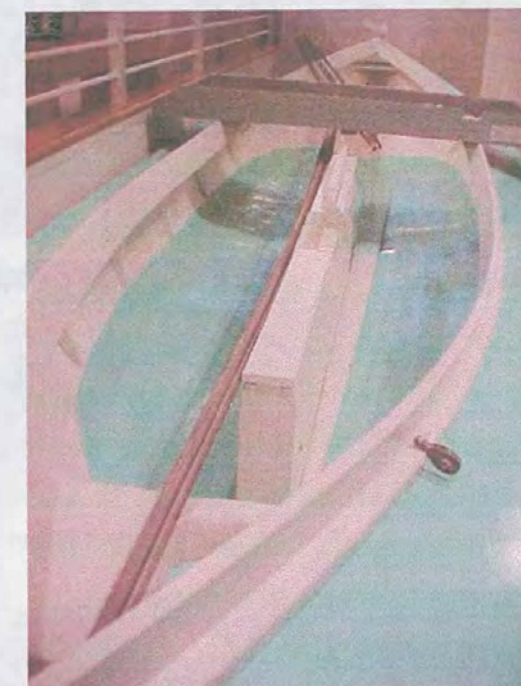
The sound of the boats was heard in the morning as they departed to start the day's work and later when the watermen returned with their catch. That sound is heard today but with less and less frequency. Some boats could be identified by the sound of their engines. Some of the men - by no means an exhaustive list - who fished the waters were Jim Dawson and his brother Seymour, Judson Crockett and his father Jeff Crockett, Tick (S.F.) DeAlba and his brother Tom and their sons, Billy Ironmonger, and Ed Carmines.

Although they were tired from a hard day's work, these watermen regularly joined other men congregated at G.A. Wornom's or C.J. Slight's store each night and talked over their days experiences on the water. They clustered around the potbelly black stoves for warmth.

Log Canoe Construction

Another industry and occupation in Crab Neck was that of construction of multi-log canoes. This livelihood required knowledge and skill passed down from previous generations and/or learned on the job. In general, these boat builders didn't use a model or mould, except that of a previously built log canoe, and used their eyes to sight size, angle, square and length throughout the entire process ranging from the selection of logs to the finished product.

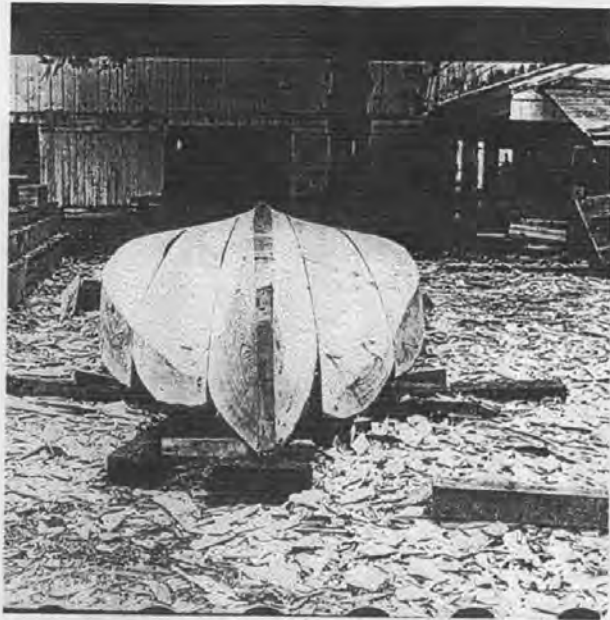
A three-log canoe, on display at the Mariners Museum, is shown below.



This canoe was constructed from three pine logs fastened together with trunnels and hewn to desired shape with an adze. Trunnels are treenails, a cylindrical pin of hard wood or iron for fastening together the hewn logs; there is no framing. An Adze or adz (shown above) is a heavy chisel-like metal tool fastened at right angles to a wooden handle and used to chop or chisel wood chips from the logs.

The use of European tools and the ingenuity of the early colonist changed the shape and configuration of the Native American canoe. Adding multi-logs, a sailing mast, centerboard, rudder, shaped bow and stern, and narrow decks (gunnels) called washboards were some of the changes made. Improvements were made through the years even to including reciprocating engines.

The next two pages show some of the steps used in building a log canoe. Appreciation is expressed to the Mariners Museum for providing copies of some photographs that depict this construction process.



Five logs shaped and placed together



Hull upright with sides taking shape



Seven logs shaped and placed together



Builders shaping the bow



Side pieces being attached and shaped to match the curvature of the log hull



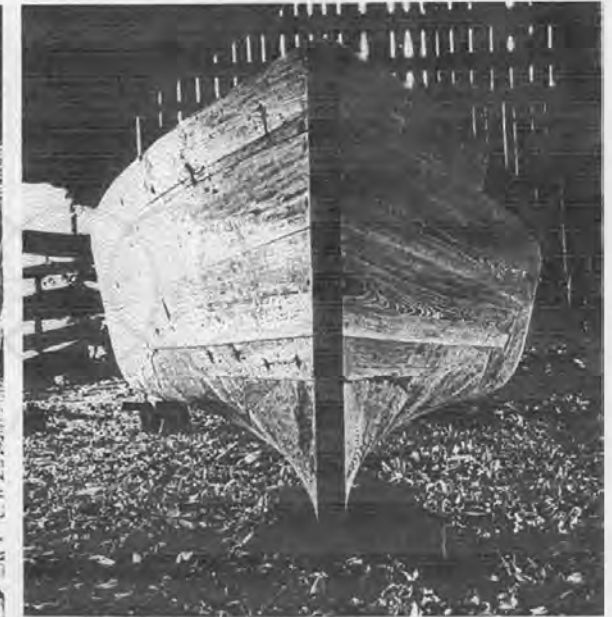
Shaping the joints and hull



Shaping of the inside of the hull



Attachment of the next level on the side



Outside of hull finished



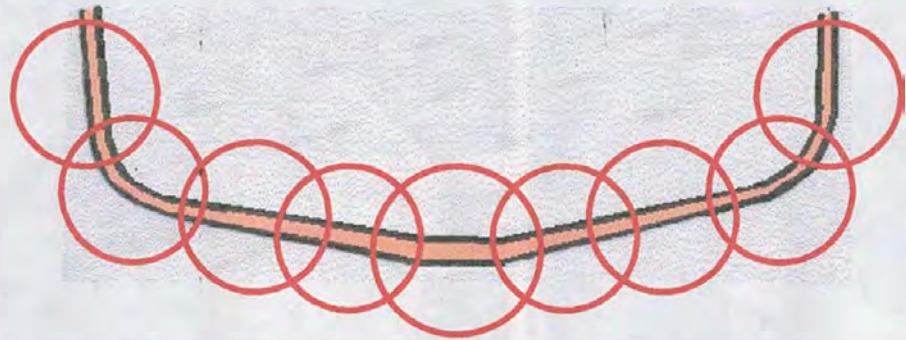
Inside of hull finished



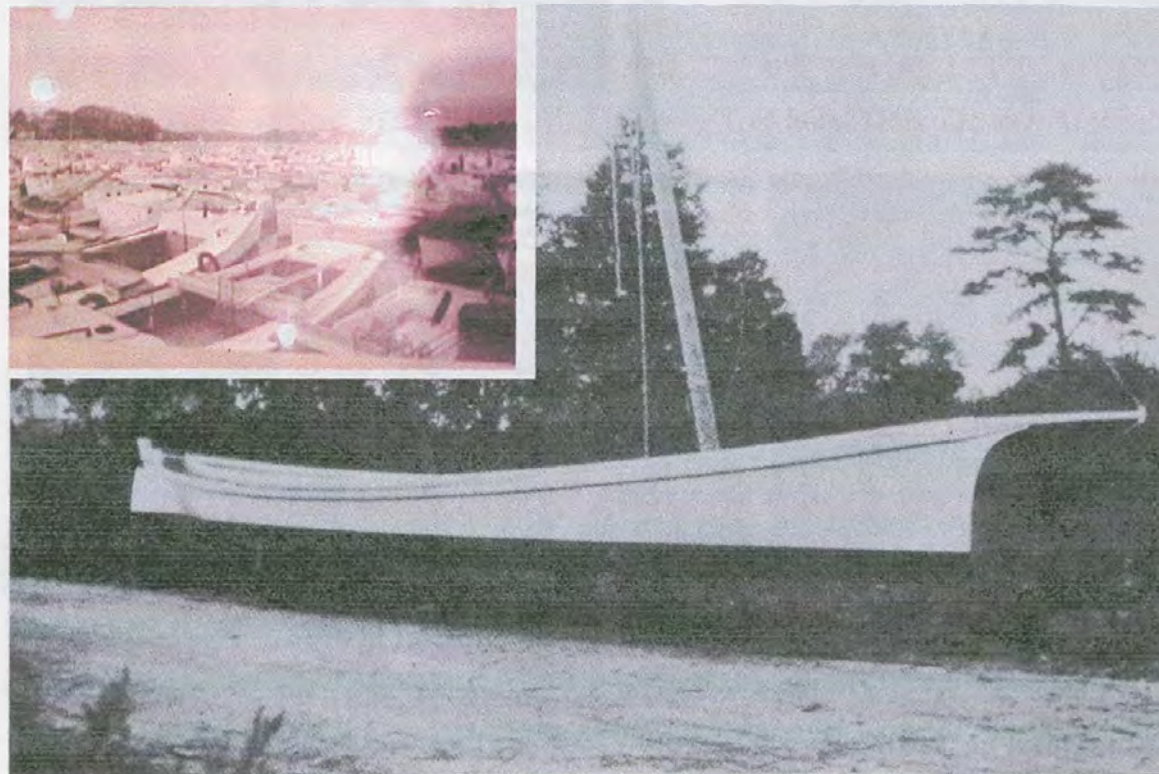
The washboard/gunnel and mast installed

These pictures showing log canoe construction were taken in the mid 1930s. The builders had their own techniques so these methods and sequences shown above were by no means practiced by all builders.

The diagram below shows a mid-canoe section and how the logs (red circles) are joined and then shaped to form the section. The ends of the logs are shaped to form the bow and stern, and the chines are curved to form the round bilge in a smooth transition to the bow and stern.

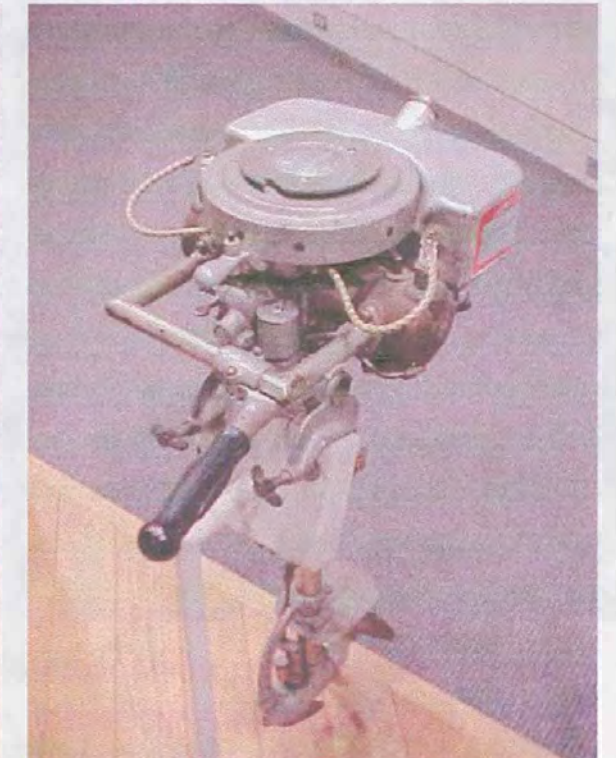


The picture below shows the finished product, courtesy of the Mariners Museum.



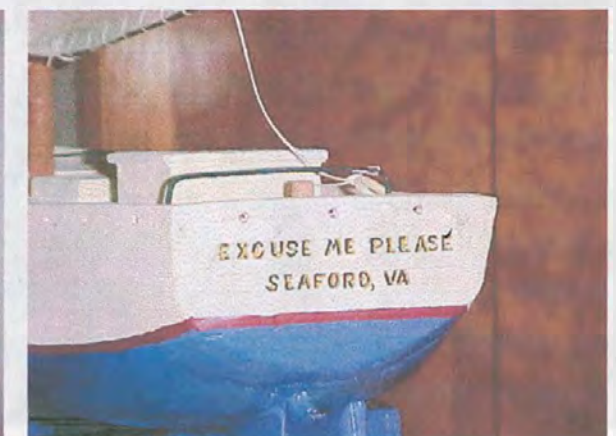
Early Outboard Engines and Boat Model

Shortly after the turn of the century (1900), the gasoline engine made its appearance and began to change the oyster and clam industry and the configuration of the boats.



1915, 3 1/2 hp Evinrude outboard engine 1922, 5 hp Johnson outboard engine

James Ironmonger, III carved this model as a toy for his son and it remains in the Ironmonger family. This model is a schooner. James owned a log canoe that he docked on Back Creek, Crab Neck during the off-season and rowed over to the James River during the oyster season.





1953 Aerial Photos

Above: Lewis Drive area

Below: Seaford Road to Chisman Creek – western end



The Names of Roads

- Chisman – Obviously the first patent holder in Crab Neck and owner of 600 acres would have a tremendous influence that dates back to the mid 1600s. In Seaford there are more roads bearing the “Chisman” name than any other name: Chisman Circle, Chisman Point Road, and Chisman Landing Road. Of course, there is a creek that carries his name.
- Claxton - It is believed that Claxton is a corrupted spelling of the Clarkson name pronunciation. Clarkson was an original patent holder. Today the Claxton name is carried on a road and a creek in Crab Neck.
- Crockett – Joseph Crockett bought 100 acres along Chisman Creek. The lane that led from Crab Neck (Old Seaford) Road to his house and shoreline later became know as Crockett Road. Four generations of Crocketts lived in the dwelling at the end of Crockett Road.
- Dawson – In 1850 Robert Dawson purchased 65 acres, called the Dawson Farm, from Allen Chapman. Later James Dawson, Robert’s son, owned the land. Roads carrying this name: Dawson Drive and Dawson Creek Drive. There was also a development within called Goose Creek Farm.
- Cheadle – In 1912 J.J. Cheadle inherited the Napoleon Bonaparte Smith land of 175 acres with main thoroughfare called Cheadle Loop.
- Ironmonger Lane – In 1820 James Ironmonger purchased Back Creek Plantation consisting of 329 acres. He also owned Bay Tree Neck and the Dawson Farm area (before it was called that).
- Hansford Lane – Baker Lee and Sarah Lee Hansford (cousins) married ca. 1882, and after 1900 (after Cary Crockett died), owned the property on which the Roger’s/Cary Crockett’s dwelling was located. The lane ran from Crab Neck (Seaford) Road north to the dwelling. He farmed and also built boats.
- Wildey Road – There was a long lane from Crab Neck Road that extended to a crab factory on Chisman Creek. The geological survey map shows “Factory” at that location. In later years a

Wildey family found its way in a houseboat to Chisman Creek and bought property. The lane from Seaford Road to that property became the present-day Wildey Road.

- Sparrer – Whittington Crockett rented the property he inherited from his father, Joseph Crockett, to the Sparrer family. Members of the Sparrer family married into the Crockett Clan, and thus the Sparrer family came into possession of land surrounding the road that carries the Sparrer name.
- Wornom – Esther Crockett married William. Zion United Methodist Church borders Wornom Drive.

Other named roads:

- Fox Lane
- Mastin
- Moss Avenue
- Parker
- Whites
- Blanton
- Raymond
- Kenneth
- Mary Ann

Dawson - Cheadle Farm Areas

The starting point for this discussion is "Belvin's Point". Belvin's Point is shown on the following portions of McClellan's Civil War Maps (ca. 1862). The red arrows mark the location.



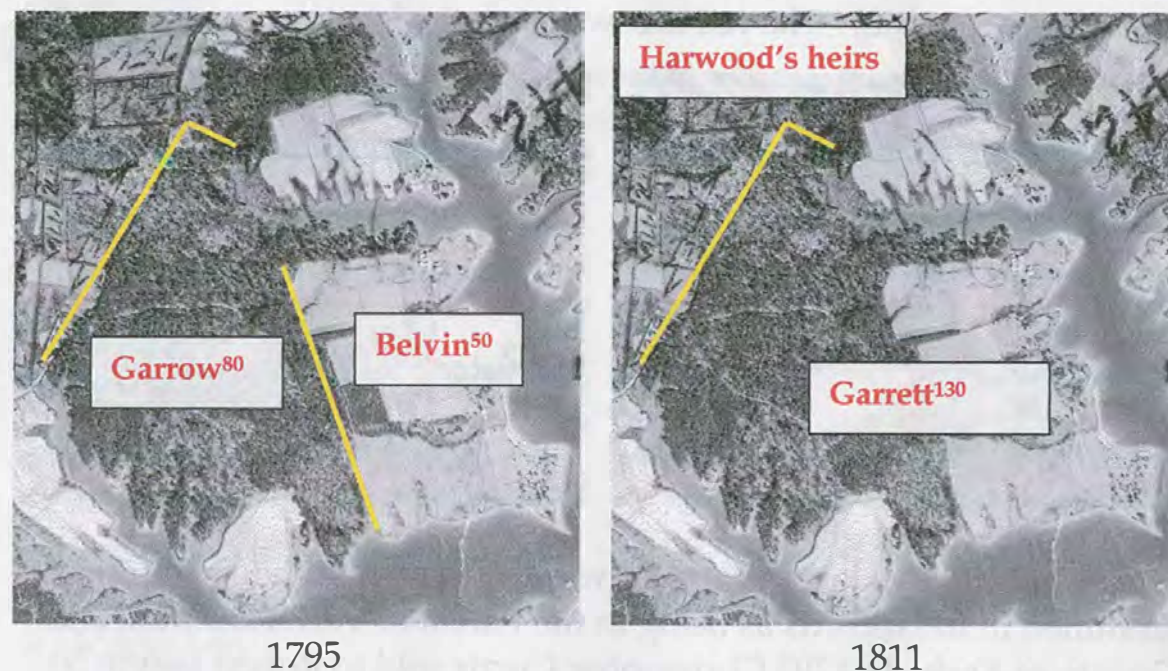
The parcel of land, that later was to be called Belvin's Point, is identified in the records as being in the Parish of York Hampton and County of York. In 1795 Christopher Curtis sold to Robert Belvin 50 acres of land bounded on the north and west by lands of John Garrow, south by Chisman Creek, and east by Goose Creek. Christopher Curtis inherited this land by the last will of a certain Christopher Cawley of County York in 1772. Robert Belvin married Martha Garrow (the Garrow farm bounded Belvin's farm) and they had eight children. Before he bought the farm he declared for taxes himself, three blacks, and two horses in 1788. Robert died in late 1807/early 1808 and the estate sale of his personal property was held in February 1808 and his widow bought most of the items. Commissioners for York County (Lewis Burt, Lewis Charles, John Moreland) sold "Belvin's Point" in April 1811 to Richard Garrett.

In 1810 William Garrow (north and west) sold to Richard Garrett for \$400, 80 acres bounded on the east by Goose Creek, south by Richard Garrett (lately the estate of Robert Belvin deceased), west by a branch of Chisman Creek and the main road [Seaford Road], and

north by lands lately held by Col. Edward Harwood's heirs. Apparently, Martha Garrow Belvin followed her family (Garrow) to their new location.

At this point in time, Richard Garrett owns 130 acres of land that later would be called the Cheadle Farm.

Maps provided below show these land arrangements.



The Cheadle Farm - The Early Years

In 1828 Ann Garrett sold to Robert Dawson an estimated 130 acres bounded on the east and south by Chisman Creek, west by John Chapman, and north by Robert Tabb.

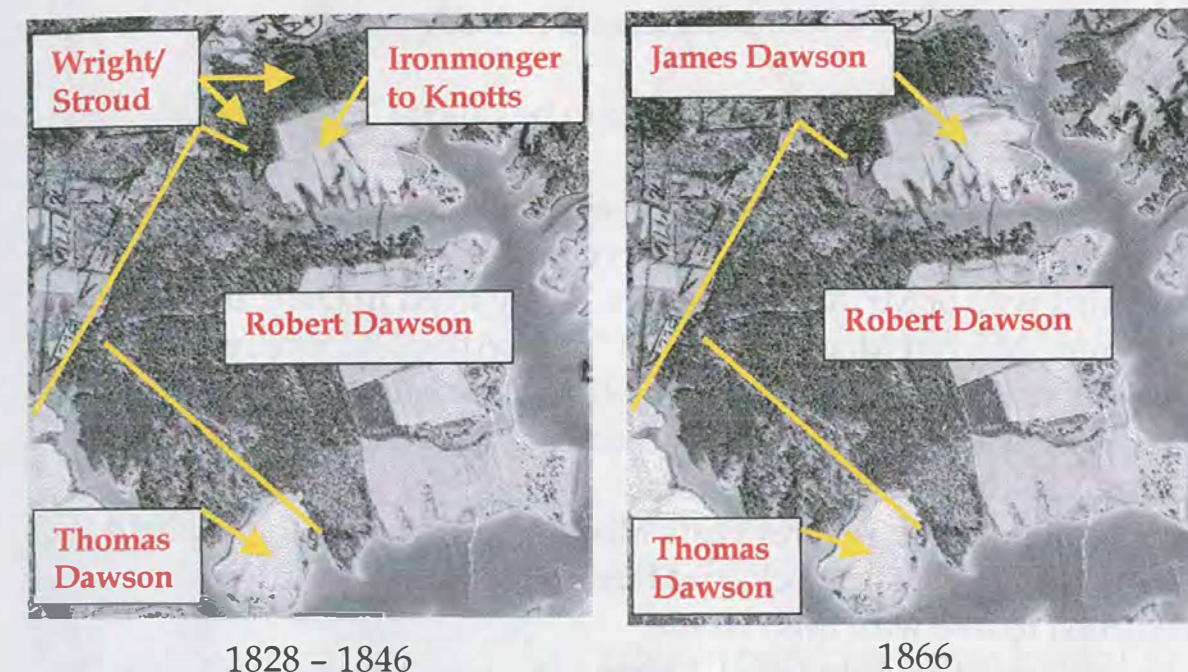
In 1846 Robert Dawson sold to Thomas Dawson (son) 20 acres bounded on his west by the main road to a bridge at the head of Mason's Creek, north at the corner of the main road commencing at a ditch running down to Mason's Creek, east by Robert Dawson's land, south by Chisman Creek.

The Dawson Farm - The Early Years

Land ownership records north of Mason's Creek show that James Ironmonger sold 45 acres to William Knotts in 1842. John

Wright and the heirs of Thomas Stroud bound these 45 acres on the west and north, and Goose Creek on the east. Knott defaulted, the land was advertised, and Allen Chapman was highest bidder and became owner. Allen Chapman sold 65 acres to Robert Dawson in 1851, who later sold 40 acres, called Knott's land to James Dawson. Chisman Creek Road bound this land on the north, Robert Dawson on the west and south, and Goose Creek on the east.

The maps show this land arrangement.



At this point in time, ca. 1866, the Dawson families own the land in what today is called the Dawson Farm and the Cheadle Farm areas. The Robert Dawson home is shown below (Cheadle Farm area).



By 1879, William Wall was in possession of Belvin's Point (approximately 30 acres) and N.B. (Napoleon Bonaparte) "Barney" Smith was in possession of the remainder of the Robert Dawson tract (Cheadle Farm). James Dawson continued to own his land (Dawson Farm).

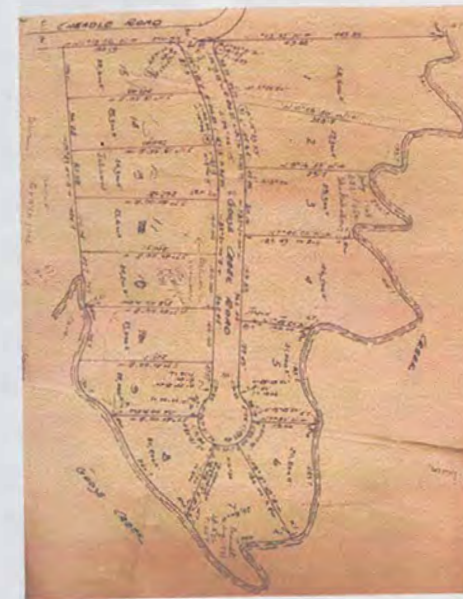
In 1912, J.J. (James John) "Jim" Cheadle inherited the N.B. Smith land, 175 acres in all. Mrs. J.J. Cheadle, "Miss Da", was a Dawson, and sister to Abigail (Miss Abbie), Seymour and James Dawson. J.J. Cheadle will sell the land in 1937.

How Miss Abbie's Point came to be called Charnock Place

Miss Abbie married at age 13 a Mr. Mitchell, had three children, and was widowed at age 17. She eventually remarried, and became the third wife of Mr. Merrett Moore. They lived in Dare, but had no children. Merrett Moore died, and "Miss Abbie" Moore received a settlement from the Moore estate, whereupon she returned to Seaford and bought a small farm in the Cheadle area on the point of Chisman Creek and the small creek separating Cheadle from the Robanna Shores area. After several years Miss Abbie's daughter, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Mitchell Charnock, and husband Clarence Charnock returned to live with Miss Abbie.

When Miss Abbie died, Lizzie (childless) was left with "life rights" (Lizzie's lifetime) to the farm, which now bore the name "Charnocks". However, Miss Abbie left the land to Lizzie's brother's children to own after Lizzie's death. The brother, William Mitchell, who married Nicola Hansford, had two children: Bertha Mitchell Hudgins and Elizabeth Mitchell Boyd. Bertha had two children: William (died childless) and Nelda Hudgins Stone. At this point, Nelda and Elizabeth owned the property called Charnocks and each eventually sold her portion.

Today there are the road names Dawson Drive and Dawson Creek Drive in what was the Dawson Farm area, and Cheadle Loop Road in what was the Cheadle Farm area, which previously was a "Dawson Farm". Howard Balison began development of Cheadle Heights in 1964, with the exception of Miss Abbie's Point. A portion of this development is shown below.



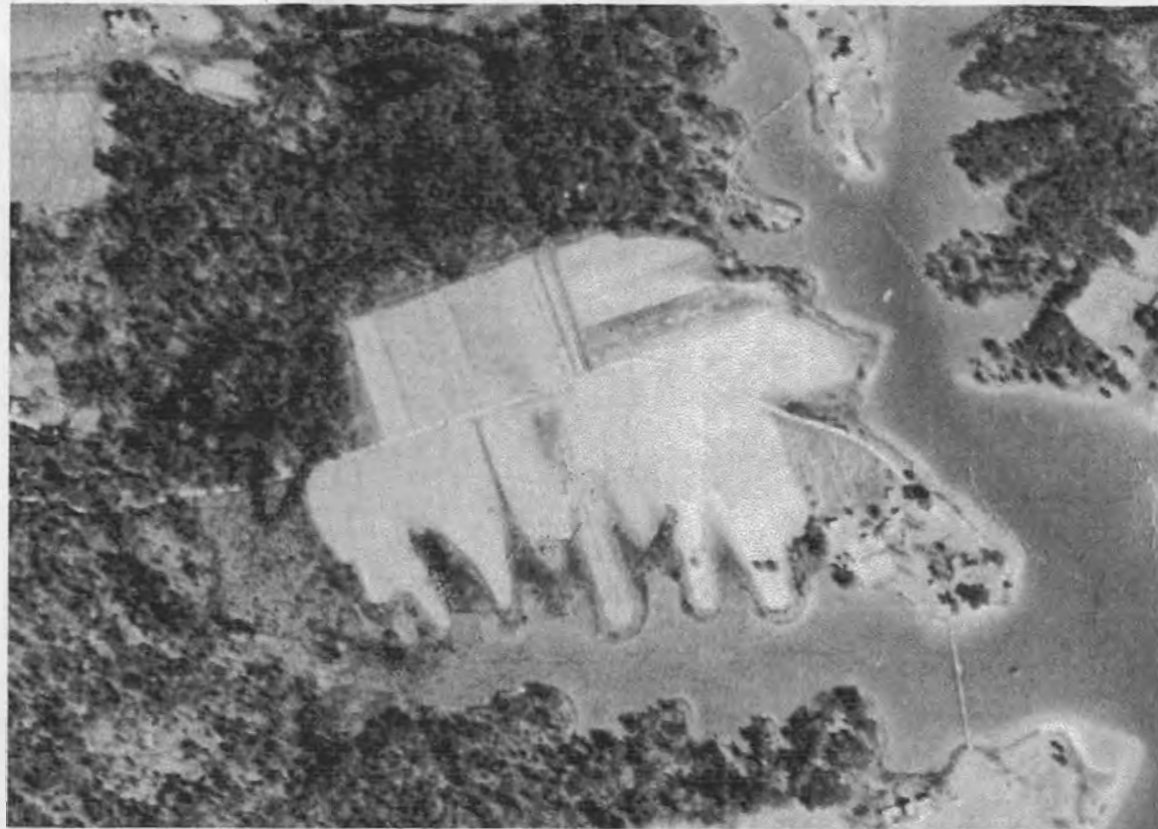
The road in this section is called "Goose Creek Road" and the development was called "Goose Creek Farm". The red arrow marks the development area previously shown.

The Robert Dawson home (shown previously) was located near the cul-de-sac at the end of Goose Creek Road. The Dawson house was raised in 1966.

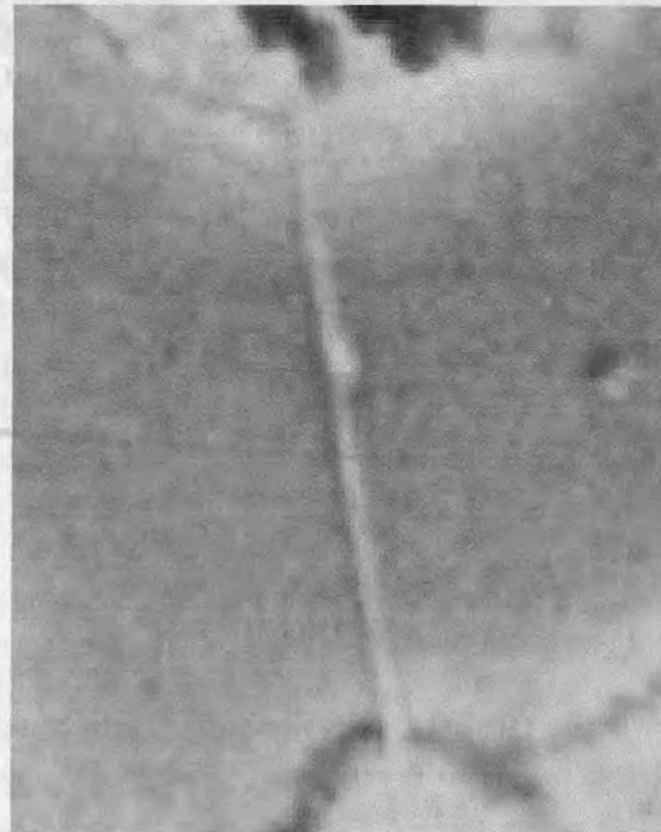
Miss Abbie's Point
(Charnock Place)

Dawson Farm - Circa 1937

The 1937 aerial photo on the next page provides a close-up of the Dawson Farm.



There seems to be one lane that enters the farm, running straight then curving to a home on the water along Goose Creek. There are few outbuildings along Mason's Creek; the remainder appears to be farmland. A close examination reveals that a bridge crosses the mouth of Mason's Creek from "Dawson's Point" to Belvin's Point. A close-up view of the bridge is shown to the right. Also, in the picture above, there is another bridge from the Dawson Farm to the Thomas Mills Farm.



Footbridges connected together all the points (pronounced "pints" by the locals then) to reduce walking distances. As shown in the previous maps, there were two footbridges at the James Dawson Farm. One crossed a branch of Goose Creek to a "pint" behind present-day Seaford Woman's Club, and one over Mason's Creek to the Robert Dawson Farm (Belvin's "Pint"). The Club's land originally belonged to Thomas Mills, then Ethelbert Crockett, and then Samuel Hogg. There was a well-used path from Cheadle's place to "downtown Seaford", the commercial center. One would travel using the bridge to James Dawson then over to Thomas Mills, and then be near Zion Methodist Church, Gaston A. Wornom's General Merchandise, C.J. Slight's dry good's and millinery, the Hornsby's Store and Bank, the post office (with a telephone) or Dr. L.O. Powell.

Cheadle Farm - Circa 1937



In the 1937 aerial photo above, there seems to be two lanes entering the farm: one to the east proceeding to what would have been the Robert Dawson home, and the other proceeding to the southeast to what would have been the Thomas Dawson home (Miss Abbie's Point). For the Robert Dawson portion, the buildings are concentrated on the northeast shoreline, which also is the location of the Goose Creek Farm development, which is also Belvin's Point. For the Thomas Dawson portion, the buildings are concentrated on the south shore at the point.

Reflecting on the Richard Dawson home at the end of "Goose Creek Road" (Belvin's Point), during the Civil War "Miss Lizzie" lived with her Grandmother Dawson. Miss Lizzie encountered the Union soldiers who came across Chisman Creek from Ship Point (Smith's Railway) to Belvin's Point. (Although the landing point was called "Belvin's Point", Robert Dawson owned the land. A Company of the Connecticut Artillery was encamped on Belvin's Point.) Even though she would later marry a Yankee (not a soldier) named James Slaight, Miss Lizzie taunted the Yankee soldiers. She imitated a Confederate soldier by wearing a rebel cap and marching back and forth by the yard fence. The Yankees began standing by the fence. The more soldiers who circled the fence, the bolder Miss Lizzie became. Finally, the commanding officer came to the door of the home and told Grandmother to "do something with that girl" or they would burn down the house. With grandmother crying and wringing her hands, she was able to get Miss Lizzie back in the house.

James and Lizzie Slaight lived at the Thomas Dawson home (Miss Abbie's Point/ Charnock Place); Miss Lizzie was the oldest child of Thomas Dawson. James Slaight opened an oyster shipping business from Slaight's Wharf at the end of present day Shirley Road (State Dock). James Slaight was from Staten Island, New York.

Dawson and Cheadle Growth

A 1953 Aerial photo is shown on the next page that can be used to determine the amount of development compared to the 1937 aerial photos.



The Dawson Farm area doesn't show much change. There is a wide path running towards the north. In the Cheadle farm area, Cheadle Loop Road is in the process of being established, and houses with drive-ways on lots along the branch of Chisman Creek on the southwest side of the farm. On the south point, the land is cleared, whereas, in the 1999 aerial photo (next page) it is wooded.

Shown on the next page is a 1999 aerial color photo showing the Dawson and Cheadle Farms areas.

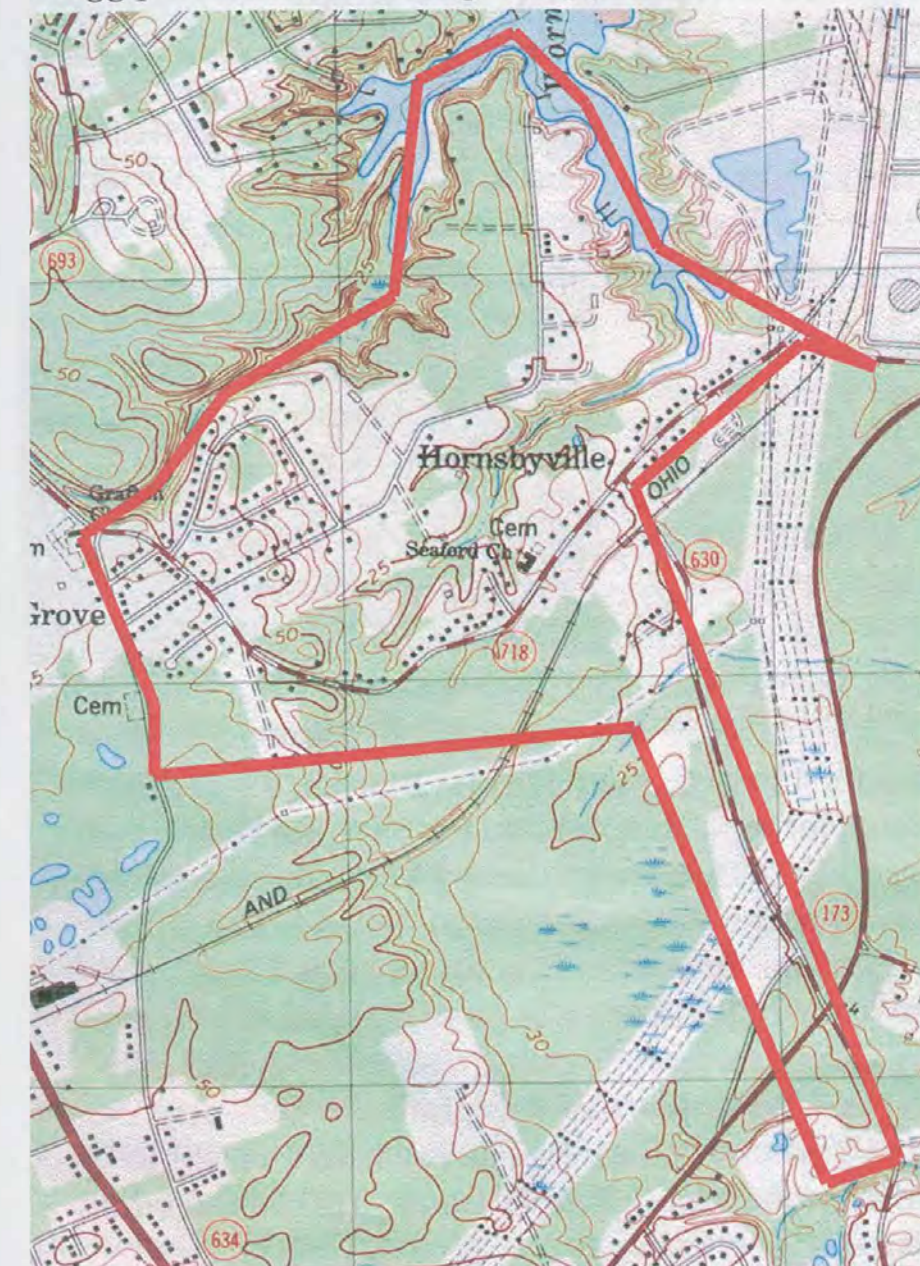


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Tampico

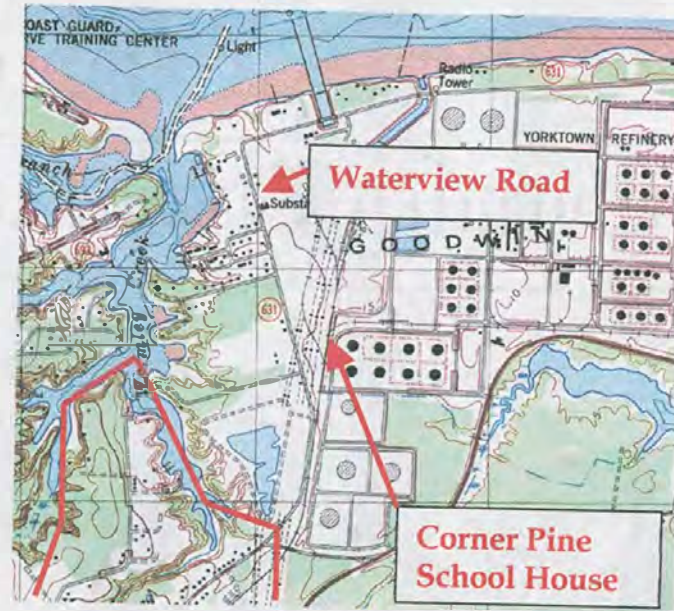
Wormley Creek Plantation Land

The area under discussion is shown in the picture below. The Hogg plantation, at its largest, approximates the red line boundaries.



Both John Hogg, Sr. and his sons purchased parcels over time. Later, parcels were sold out of the Hogg family and other names emerge in the area, such as Hornsby, Harris and, Sheild, i.e., the areas called Hornsbyville Harris Grove, and Harris Grove Estates. Hornsbyville is treated in this section, Harris Grove in the Harris Grove section.

Goodwin Neck (Dandy) is the east boundary of Hornsbyville, on the east side of the southern (main) branch of Wormley Creek. However, within this Hornsbyville history discussion, reference will be made to some areas in Goodwin Neck: the Waterview Road area and the Corner Pine School House in west Dandy.



Early History

East of Hornsbyville

In 1638 Christopher Wormeley (Wormely) received a patent for 1420 acres east of Wormley Creek, reaching to the head of Chisman and Back Creeks. Wormeley was Governor of Tortuga Tortugas) Island between 1632 and 1635.



North and West of Hornsbyville

Under the leadership of Captain Nicolas Martiau a fort was built at the mouth of Harvey Creek, named for Sir. John Harvey who became Governor in 1629. The fort was called York, and the safety of the fort provided momentum for settlement in the area, and a port for the transport of goods. One of the first settlers was Christopher Wormeley and the name of the creek was later changed to Wormley, and the U.S. Coast Guard, Reserve Training Center today includes the area that was called York. Martiau was granted a 1600-acre patent that included Yorktown. Sir John Harvey held a patent to land reaching from Martiau's land directly east to York at the mouth of Wormley Creek.

Present-day Marlbank Farms and Marlbank Cove are located between the west and south (main) branches of Wormley Creek. "King" Robert Carter inherited this land area from his father, Charles of Kleve. Charles Carter, Jr., grandson of Robert Carter, owned the land of about 800 acres, which at that time was called Wormley Creek Plantation. In 1770 Carter sold the plantation to David Jameson who changed the name to Churchfield. Jameson died in 1794 and in his will left the plantation to Richard Garrett. Richard Garrett owned land in several locations in York-Hampton Parish, and also in Ohio and Kentucky. Richard Garrett died in 1802 leaving these tracts of land to his family members. One such tract he left "to my wife my plantation on York River where I live." The York River Plantation was Marlbank Farms. Garrett changed the name to Marlbank because of large quantities of marl - calcium deposits from small shells - in the soil and creek banks, and had a home built in 1837. Later, a person by the name of Stedman owned it.

Wormley Creek Plantation

At the time Charles Carter, Jr. owned the Marlbank Farm area its name was Wormley Creek Plantation. Later the name was dropped as indicated above. However, the name did not die. The peninsula (north Hornsbyville) formed by the forks of the southern (main) branch of Wormley Creek bore the name "Wormley Creek Plantation". The area was called Wormley Creek Plantation before it was called Tampico or Hornsbyville. Tampico is pronounced "Tamp-pea-co".

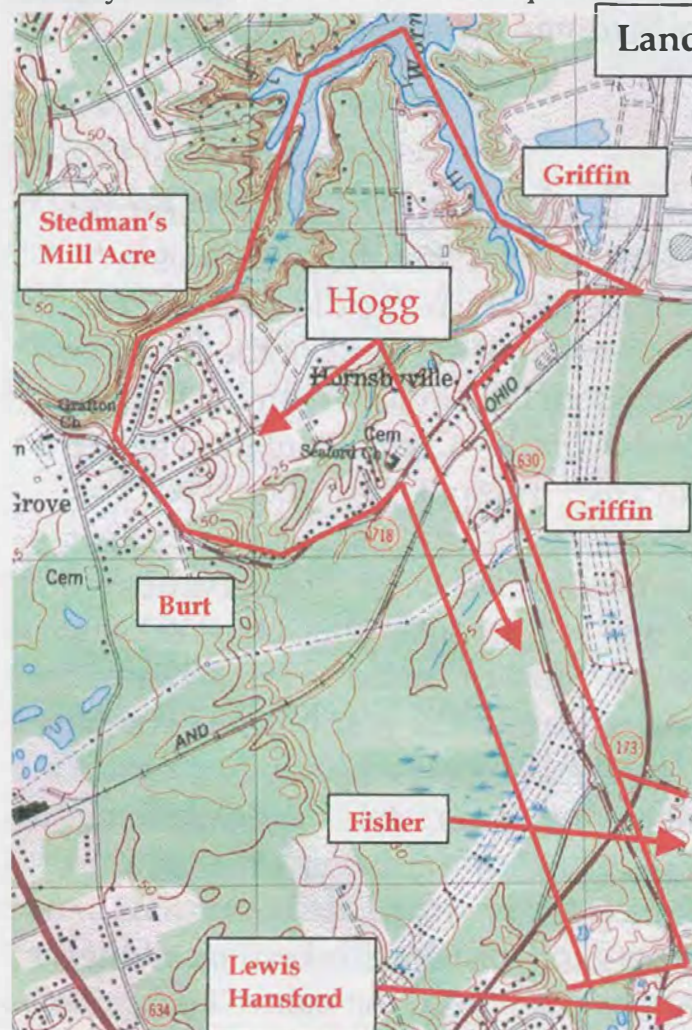
There are two but similar tales for the origin of the name Tampico. One, by Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger/Dick Ivy (York County Historical Society): the postmaster "spied a can of Tampico Baking Powder on his shelf, and so named the post office." The other is from the book *York County History, What's in a Name*: "... Hornsbyville got its name from women's corsets! The postmaster picked the title from huge boxes, which came, through his office bearing the name 'Tampico Corsets.' " Thomas Harris named it.

Later, the name was changed to Hornsbyville because of the prominence of the Hornsby family. However, the name "Hoggville"

would have been more appropriate for the reason that the Hogg family owned much land and populated the area.

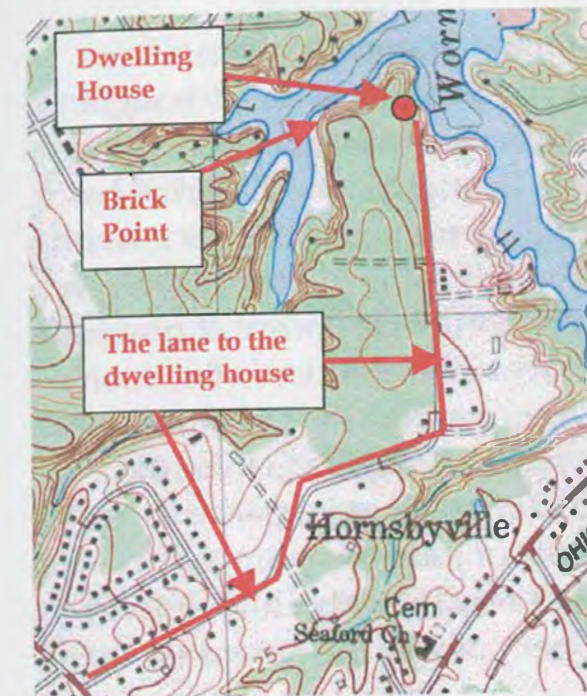
The Hogg Family

John Hogg, sixth and youngest child of Richard Hogg, Sr. and Mary Auston Hogg, was born in 1757 in Gloucester County. He moved to York County ca. 1784-86 where he was listed as John Sr. on the tax list when he leased 44 acres. His wife's last name may have been Lewis. In 1814 John Sr. acquired the Wormley Creek Plantation that included two tracts of land: a 30-acre tract, which adjoined a 50-acre tract he bought in 1811, and a 142-acre tract for a total of 222 acres. From that time Hogg descendants built homes, divided and subdivided the land, sold and resold land, sold land out of the family, and continue ownership of some land.



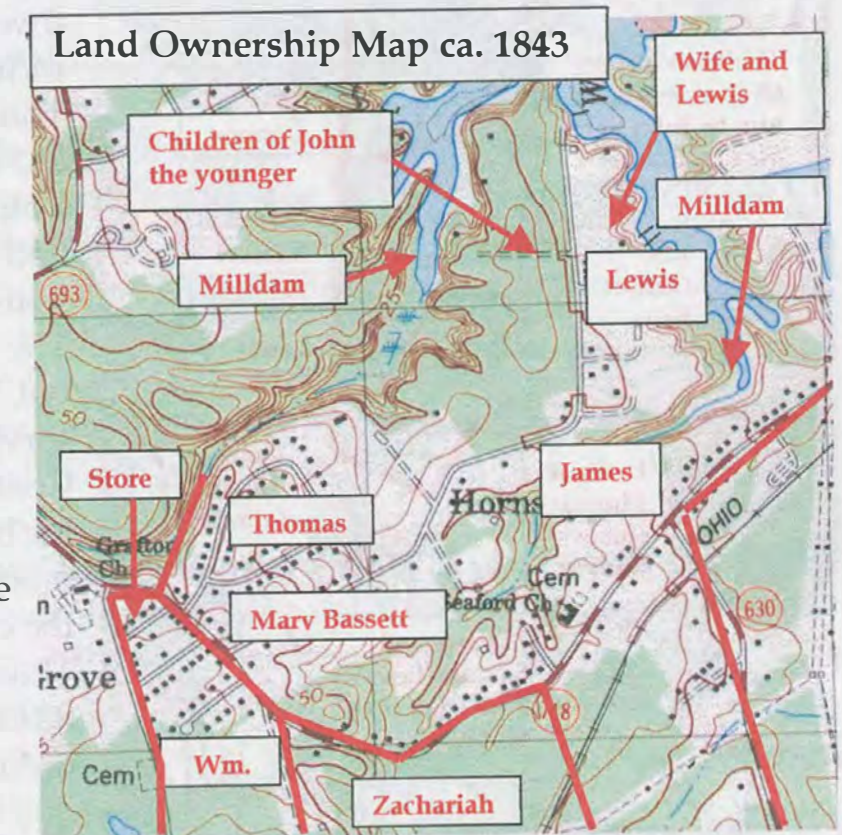
Land Ownership Map ca. 1814

John Sr. owned Wormley Creek Plantation and land reaching south to Lewis Hansford land and bordering east on Fisher land. The Hansford land was Hansford Landing, present-day Barcroft Drive area (see the Cockletown Corridor section). Fisher land was subsequently Spencer land now Port Myers, and located between Seaford and Wolf Trap Roads at the head of Chisman Creek.



The John Sr. dwelling house faced north where the branch of Wormley Creek runs south on either side. On the south side of the house, a sandy lane (Old Wormley Creek Road) ran for a mile to the main road (Hornsbyville Road) where a signpost pointed north to Yorktown and pointed southeast to Crab Neck. The family burial ground was located on the west side of the lane on a high knoll, but was destroyed by farming through the years.

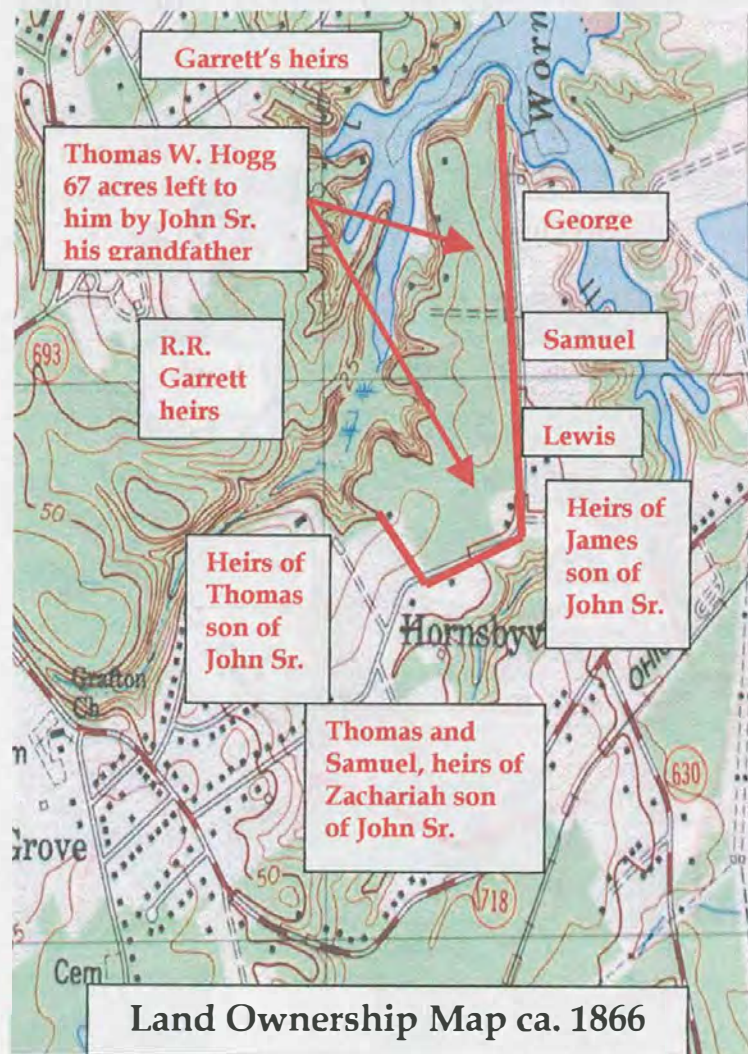
John Sr. and wife had seven children: William (1785), Zachariah (1791), John (the younger, 1794), James (1798), Mary (1801), Thomas (1804) and Lewis (1810). John Sr.'s will was proved in 1843. The map shows the division of the property at that time.



Land Ownership Map ca. 1843

In 1824 John Sr. purchased from John Toomer 65 acres across the road from, and adjoining his land. Apparently John Sr. bought this for Zacariah, in view of the fact that it was on this land that Zacariah and family lived, and the land bequeathed to Zacariah by John Senior. In 1830 William acquired 59 acres from John Toomer. This land was across the road from, and adjoining land of his father John Senior. William had a store on the northwest corner of his land. The previous map shows these two parcels and the store. Location of the milldams is not certain. John the younger had died when John Sr. wrote his will, thus the land, which would have gone to John the younger, went instead to the children of John the younger.

Because of deaths of other children of John the younger, Thomas W. Hogg (grandson of John Sr.) was the only child of John the younger to inherit the western upper point of the peninsula.



The inherited land was west of the lane and dwelling house, and included Brick Point. Thomas was born in 1834, married Columbia Burt in 1858, and began building a house at Brick Point. The Civil War broke out, Thomas went into service in the Confederate Army, and his house was used as a morgue in the war. At the close of the war Thomas and his family returned to their unfinished home, but due to hardships and losses incurred by the war, he had to seek a loan.

The boundaries of the property were described in 1866 at the time the loan was processed. These boundary descriptions are shown on the map on the previous page. Dr. Edmund Bennett provided the funds (the land being the security), but because of the sinking of the Thomas' building supply boat in the Chesapeake Bay in a storm, Thomas was unable to finish the house and defaulted on the loan and the property reverted to Dr. Bennett. The will of Dr. Bennett left ½ of the land (north half) to Thomas' children and their children. William H. Hogg, bought the south ½ portion of the parcel.

Prior to the Thomas Hogg misfortune, while the Civil War was in progress, some events transpired at Wormley Creek Plantation. One of those events was the building of a corduroy road (wooden poles laid side-by-side) through the Hornsbyville peninsula by General George McClellan.

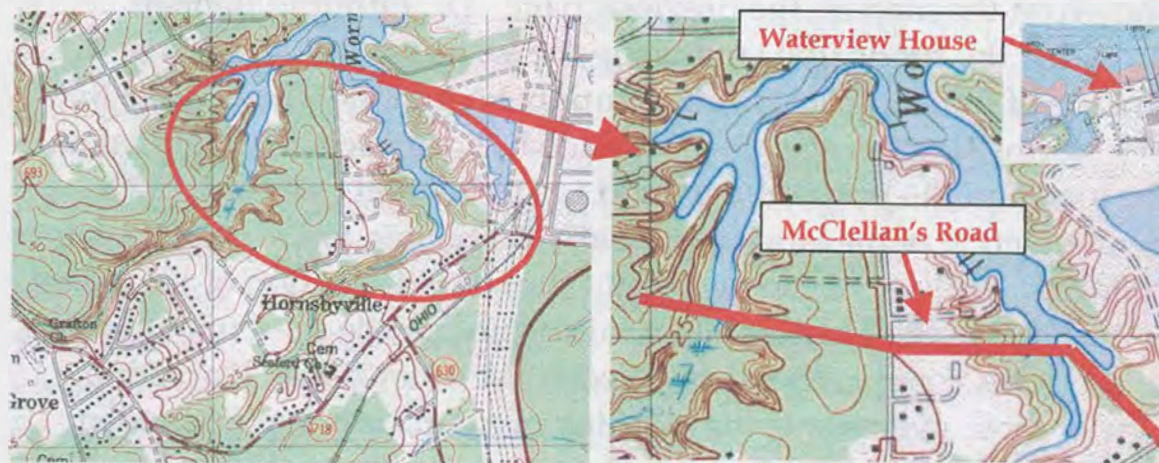
General McClellan's Road

Apparently General George McClellan, a union officer, needed to build a road to supplement the longer and sloping, and sometimes muddy Hornsbyville Road. Horse-drawn artillery and supplies through the area required a second road to quicken movement. While stationed in the lower York County area, McClellan's headquarters was located at the Waterview House, situated a short distance away, east of where Wormley Creek joins the York River.

The McClellan Road began at the intersection of present-day Waterview and Hornsbyville Roads and extended on the west side of a gully that separated Wormley Creek Plantation from the Waterview property. Where the road reached the end of a short peninsula, it turned westerly toward a branch of the creek. Earth works were built across the stream to create a roadway spanning the stream from bank to bank. In essence a 200 to 300 foot dam resulted and, because the tidal water was stopped at the dam, in time a large, fresh water pond or lake was formed which was fed by springs up the hill near the present-day Hornsbyville Baptist Church.

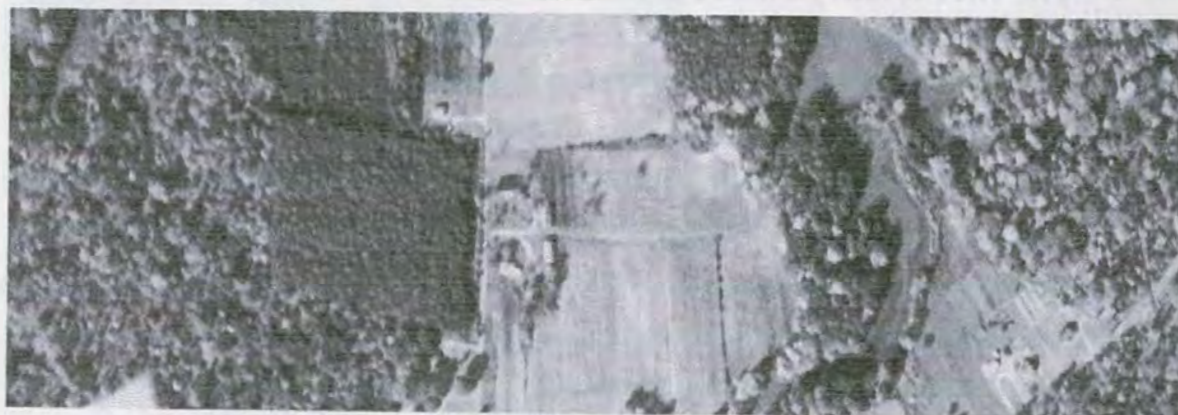
McClellan's Road proceeded from the dam up a small hill through Lewis Hogg's (son of John Sr.) property, crossed the Hogg

Lane (Old Wormley Creek Road) passed over a swamp-gully into Marbank Farms area.



The remnants of the old McClellan Road is clearly visible in this 1937 aerial photo shown below. (The author did not alter the photo.)

1937 Aerial Photo: Remnants of the Old McClellan Road



1953 Aerial Photo of the Same Area: the road is not as visible.

During the years of the Civil War, Lewis Hogg owned property east of Hogg Lane (Old Wormley Creek Road); McClellan's Road passed through his land. In later years McClellan's Road became the dividing line between the lands of Frederick Hogg and Lee Hogg, sons of Lewis Hogg. Thomas Hogg owned the land west of Hogg Lane in the Civil War days. McClellan's Road bisected Thomas' farm, the lower $\frac{1}{2}$ of which later became the William H. Hogg farm of 31 acres. This is pictorially shown below.



The western portion of McClellan's Road, that split William H. Hogg's farm, was not maintained (abandoned) after the war. Even so, children played in the area of the road where trees grew and pedestrians often walked through the woods over the road to Marlbank. Watermen, who lived in the vicinity on York-Hampton Road used the road to walk to their boats which were moored at the end of Old Wormley Creek Road or at Sam Hogg's dock.

The eastern portion of McClellan's Road, from Hornsbyville-Waterview Roads to intersection with Old Wormley Creek Road, was widely used until the 1930s even though not a public road. Since the road was used to that late date accounts for its visibility in the 1937 aerial photo. On the Lewis Hogg's farm three gates had to be opened and closed, and during the winter the hill at the dam road became muddy increasing the possibility of getting stuck. Also, the road was a single lane, thus causing a vehicle to backup to a wider spot when encountering an oncoming vehicle. In spite of these complications, the road had many redeeming qualities,

two of which were: the road was a shortcut to the Hornsbyville peninsula for people traveling from the direction of Crab Neck, and the roadway was scenic with short and tall ferns, mountain laurel and rhododendron. A story follows which provides more detail.

Excerpts from The McClellan Road

By Thelma Hansford

Judge W.E. (Eddie) Hogg lived on the corner at the intersection of Waterview and Hornsby Roads having built his first home right after World War I. Beside his house was a big black walnut tree. Bessie Ironmonger was having a new piano delivered to her home in Seaford, the deliveryman having just delivered a piano at the Lee Hogg residence. The fastest way to Seaford from the Lee Hogg residence was along the McClellan's Road. When the delivery truck reached the Eddie Hogg property, the piano swayed, fell, and hit the big walnut tree. There was a small scar and Bessie was quite upset.

The lake formed by the dam across the Wormley's Creek branch continued containing fresh water by holding back the salt tidewater. Excess fresh water passed from the lake to the tidal portion of the creek through a big brown terra-cotta culvert, keeping the water at an appropriate level. The Hogg men, being the out-of-doors type who liked hunting and fishing, stocked the fresh water lake with fish. One could stand on the bank with a pole and catch fish.

At times the dam broke as a result of fierce storms and high tides. Following such breaks in the dam, the fish would die because of the salt. The Hogg men would rebuild the dam using horses and shovels, and then restock the lake with fish. However, some years later another severe storm came and the break in the dam remained. A wooden bridge was constructed over the broken area and McClellan's Road continued for several years. But in time the bridge became a potential hazard and, at that time being located on private property, the road was closed to traffic, never the less pedestrians continued to use it. With the proliferation of vehicles and construction and improvement of roads, people ceased walking through the area. The McClellan Road's usefulness came to an end.

The former lake is gone; sea grass struck as the tide rose and fell daily. Today there is merely a narrow stream and the indentation in the land where once a relatively large body of fresh water was encased.

The Hogg Family after the Civil War

As was previously stated, John Sr. Hogg died in 1843 leaving to Thomas W., his grandson, the west portion of the peninsula. Thomas W. died in 1875, and wife Columbia in 1882. Dr. Bennett died and his will was probated in 1884. As directed in Bennett's will, the heirs of Thomas W. received the north ½ portion of the parcel.

Lewis Hogg, youngest son of John Sr., inherited the land on the east side of Hogg lane to the creek from the northern tip, south to the lane leading to the milldam. Lewis, his wife Susan and three sons, Samuel, Lewis and George, lived in the ancestral home on the Wormley Creek Plantation. Lewis died in 1855 and the court divided the land into three parts with Samuel awarded the central portion, Lewis the south portion, and George the north portion.

Samuel, son of Lewis, was born in 1836 and had three children by first wife, Nancy Wright, and eleven children by second wife, Maria Lindsay. Samuel spent his entire life on the plantation where he was born, and engaged in farming and the seafood business. He died in 1908, and Maria in 1929.

William H. Hogg, fourth child of Samuel was born in 1867. He attended the Corner Pine country school in Goodwin Neck. Like his father, William was engaged in farming and the seafood business. He accumulated savings while living with his father on the part of the Hogg ancestral plantation his father inherited. It was then that William purchased the south ½ portion of the John Hogg estate that was defaulted to Dr. Bennett. Dr. Bennett died in 1884. William's deed was recorded in 1888.

Many Hogs live on that vast Wormley Creek Plantation. At this time, only one male Hogg lives there now. Consequently, the Hogg family use of the land and the folklore will soon be totally forgotten. Therefore, what follows is an attempt to capture in writing some of the historical facts and daily activities of the Hogg ancestry. As with the Ironmongers, Crocketts, Sparrers, Mills, Montgomerys, and etc. in Seaford, so it is with the Hogs in Hornsbyville.

Some Civil War Facts By Elizabeth Ironmonger

General McClellan used the Waterview House as his headquarters, presumably during the Peninsula Campaign and the same time he had the corduroy road built. On top of the house was a sentry post where boats and movement could be sighted down to the Sand Box and up the York River. These sentinels used lanterns or lights for signaling any activity.

Even today in the attic, on the wall and rafters, there is writing made by Union soldiers housed there during the Civil War period.

The natives tried to live in harmony with the enemy as much as possible. Mrs. James served, for a fee, Sunday dinner to the Union officers. After dinner one Sunday she told the soldiers that she would be looking for them the next Sunday. Their response was that they doubted they would be present, as they would be departing the area. Mary Throckmorton, being sympathetic to the Rebel cause, was alert to the significance of this casual comment and immediately passed information to the Confederates that the Yankees were about to be on the move.

Local men participated in the war. Samuel Hogg was married with a child at the time. His first wife was Nancy Wright and while Samuel was away her reputation became questionable. After the war she died and Samuel remarried and became the grandparent of Bessie Hogg (Ironmonger).

Edward T. Winder was at the battle of Sharpsburg and was fighting beside Arthur White, a York County native, when White was killed. When Mr. White fell, Mr. Winder had to press on in that battle, not daring to lag behind.

A Mr. Moreland from York County was also killed in that battle. Lemuel Ironmonger served through the war and returned home. Thomas Washington Sparrer served and was wounded. Wesley Ironmonger, an unmarried young man, joined the York Rangers of the 115 Regiment and died of typhoid fever. Mr. Robert Stroud served through the war, and after the surrender at Appomattox, he walked all the way from Appomattox to Seaford. Capt. Dick Hansford also served.

Thelma Hansford adds some more information to this history.

On the south side of present-day Goodwin Neck Road where it joins Hornsbyville Road there was a small farm occupied by the Cary James family. It was at the very head of the swamp that emptied into and formed the head of Back Creek. During a period of the Civil War the Crab Neck-Hornsbyville area, as well as the entire area, was under siege by the Federal troops out of Fort Monroe. General McClellan had his headquarters in the Waterview House. Local citizens tried to act agreeably among and with the enemy. One example of befriending the Yankees was illustrated by Mrs. James when she served the Federal Officers Sunday dinner for a fee.

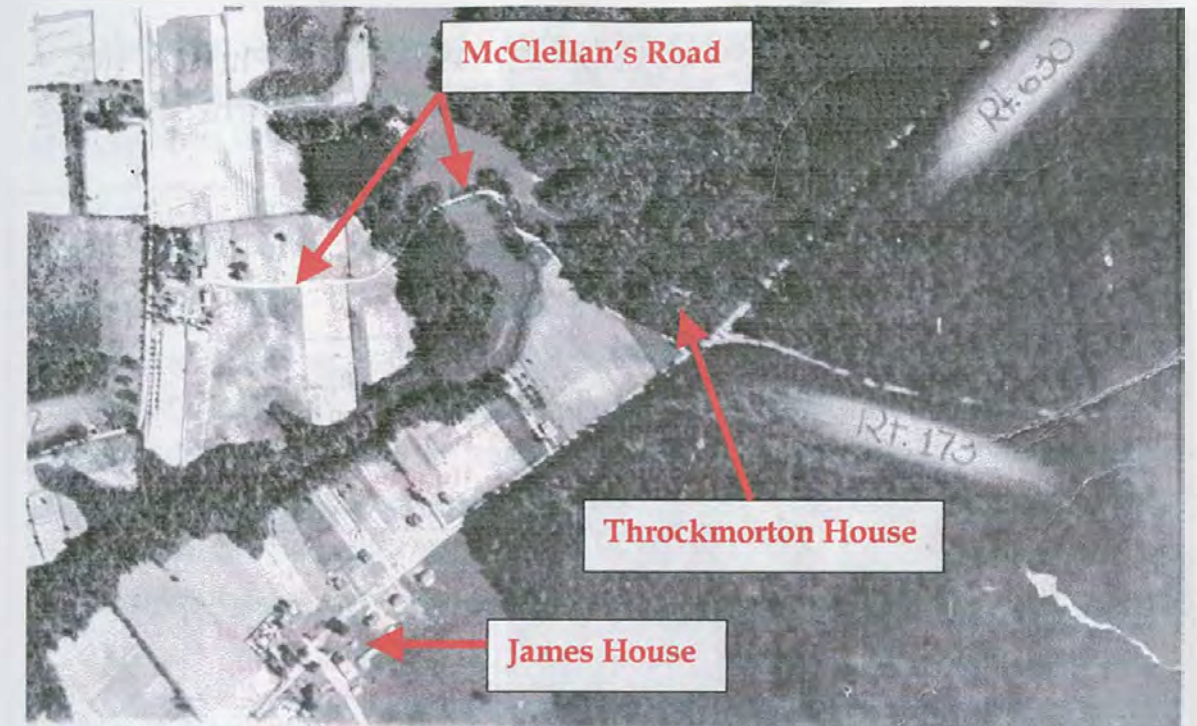
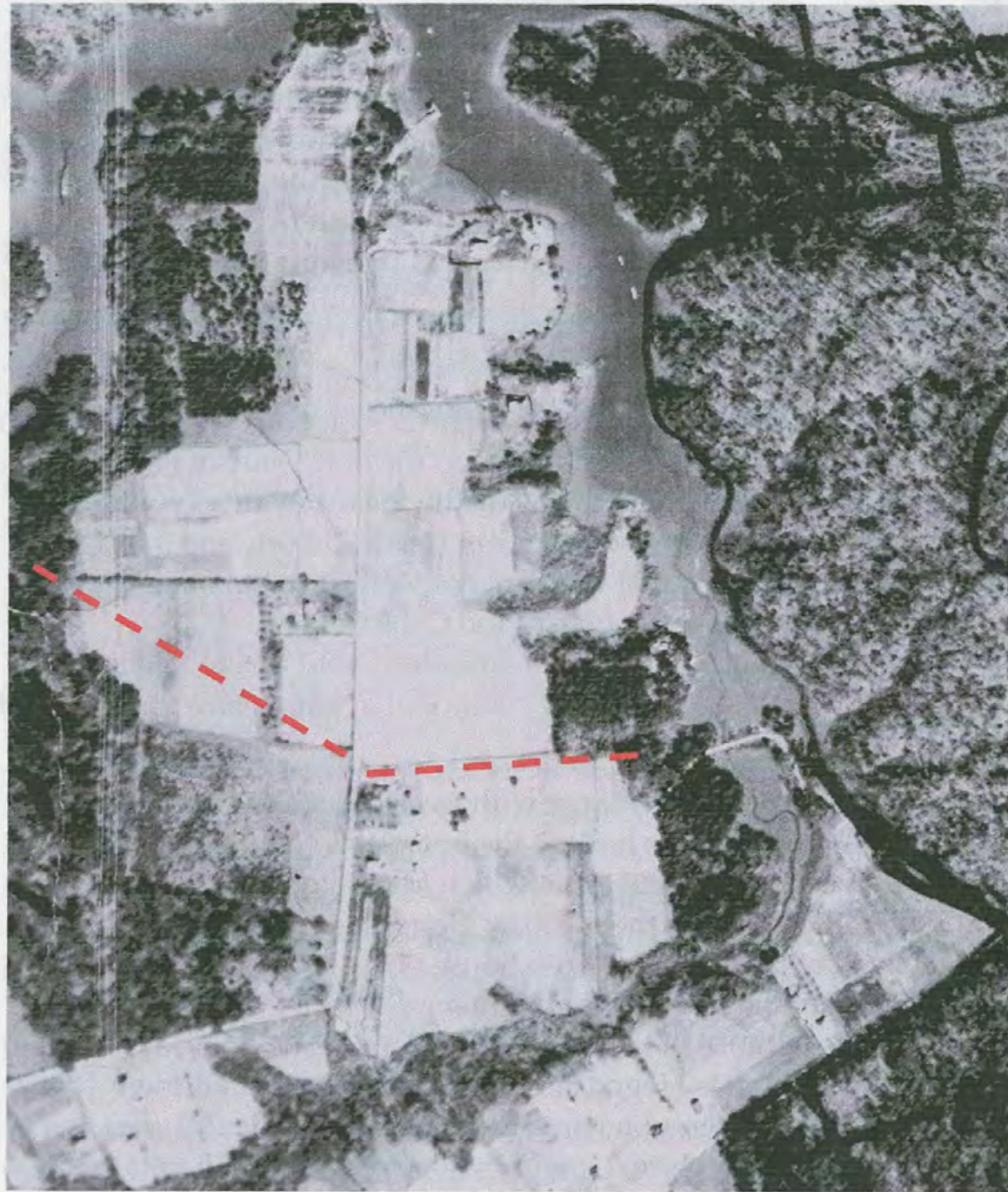
On one particular Sunday, during an after-dinner casual conversation time, Mrs. James asked, "I presume you will want Sunday dinner next Sunday as usual, General?" To this he replied, "no", and gave an explanation. Nearby, and within the range of hearing the conversation, was Mary Throckmorton, a teenage girl who was a neighbor. The Throckmorton residence was located across the road from the James residence, on the north side of Hornsbyville Road. The casual comment was readily heard by this "young rebel girl", Mary, who hastened to inform the neighbors, and any confederates nearby, that the Yankees were about to make a move toward Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy.

Arthur James, Mrs. James' grandson, told this to Thelma Hansford who used this in her classroom to emphasize the effects of loose or casual talk.

The James house was large with two stories and chimneys on each end. Attached at the back of the house were two large areas for the living and dining rooms from which Mrs. James fed the Yankees. Eventually, the house burned. Leroy Hogge, a brother to Scott Hogge, lived at the Throckmorton house. During World War I (1917-1918), when families were forced to move from their Warwick-York County farms because of the reservoir watershed (see Cockletown Corridor), the Thomas Hogge family moved there. At various intervals of time, different tenants used the house. Finally, the Plentovich family purchased it and they were the last inhabitants when the Amoco Oil Company purchased the property.

1937 Aerial Photos of the Wormley Creek Plantation Peninsula Area

Clearly visible are McClellan's Road, boats in Wormley Creek, the public landing and the gully from the southern (main) branch of the creek as it parallels Hornsbyville Road.



1937 Aerial Photos of the Hornsbyville and Marlbank Area



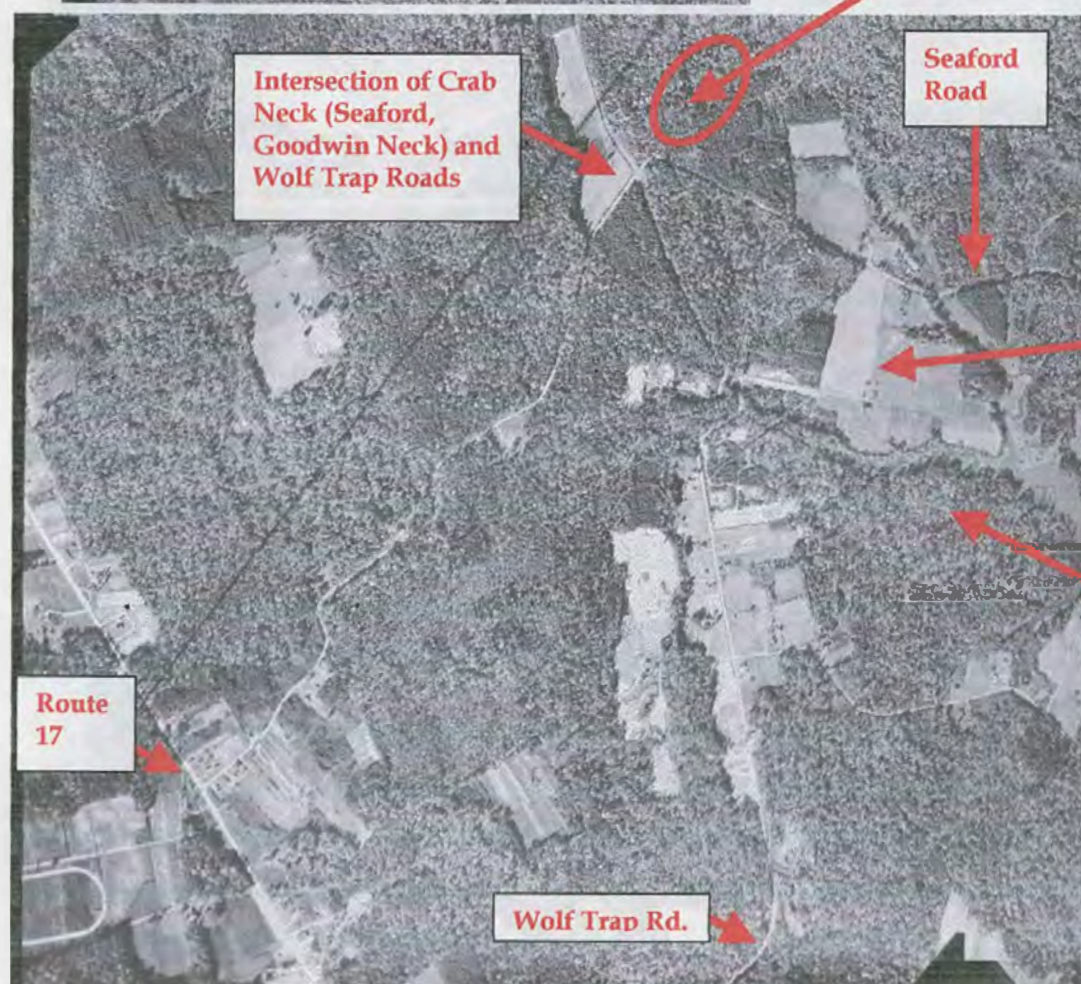


1953 Aerial Photo of the area from Hornsbyville to Grafton

Old Wormley Creek Road

Intersection of Wolf Trap and Hornsbyville Roads

Notice the absence of Goodwin Neck Road from Seaford Road to Back Creek Road.



Intersection of Crab Neck (Seaford, Goodwin Neck) and Wolf Trap Roads

Seaford Road

Fisher Spencer Port Myers

Hansford Landing Barcroft properties

Route 17

Wolf Trap Rd.

Elizabeth Ironmonger and Thelma Hansford, descendents of William Hogg, wrote histories about their Hogg roots. This folklore lends insight into the culture typical of that time. Some history follows.

Excerpts from a Tribute of Love to William Henry Hogg (Billy)
By Elizabeth Ironmonger

One evening in October 1894 when I was just past three years old, Josie Hudgins, a cousin, came to play with me. We went out by the corncrib and began to make mud pies. While stirring up the mud, Josie suggested that we put some seed into the mixture and play that it was "sugar"; and so, we gathered several Jimson seedpods (which were growing conveniently nearby), opened them and put the seed into our mud pie mixture. As our play advanced, I ate some of the pie, including the seeds (which were poison). Soon I became sleepy; Josie went home and I went into the kitchen to Mama. I told her I was sleepy, and I definitely remember, even now, that she took Papa's coat off a nail in back of the kitchen door and put it down on the floor for me to lie down on. I became unconscious and went to sleep.

Sometime later Papa came in from his day's work, reached down and took me off the coat pallet and began to play with me (as he often did) but I did not recognize him or respond to his playfulness. Immediately he knew that I was unconscious and ill. He hurriedly went on horseback to Yorktown to get a doctor. It was a long anxious night for my parents as the doctor worked to cause me to vomit. When he succeeded, he discovered the Jimson weed seeds that I had eaten. He ministered to me through the night and finally I gained consciousness. I do remember today recognizing my father as he held me in his arms and fed me tea and crackers hours later.

My father was a farmer, but he also engaged in the fishing business. During the summer seasons he, with another man as a helper, would go fishing at night, by moonlight, with a haul-seine to catch jumping mullets. He would work until midnight and catch hundreds of fish to sell on the road early next morning. I went with him many times as he peddled the fish to housewives along the way. Papa had a very large conch shell for a fish horn, into which he blew to notify the housewives that he was approaching with fish to sell.

Soon after Wesley Ironmonger and I were married (March 10, 1909) we began to make plans to build a house on the northeast corner of the Ironmonger farm. Wes and my Papa talked about the needed lumber with which to build. They went into my father's wood, selected trees to cut, and thus plans for a new dwelling house for us were under way. Soon Wesley, my brother Eddie and Papa, with Frank and Clint Randall, cut down the trees, hauled them to Wormley's Creek, where they were rafted down the York River to Back Creek and finally to Eddie Purgold's saw mill. Mr. Purgold had offered to saw the lumber as a favor to Wes. As spring came and summer 1909 advanced, he worked toward cutting the sills, joists, and other framing for our house. We were very grateful for the gift of trees that Papa gave us toward a new home, and we loved him for his goodness to me.

Excerpts from Ma's Kitchen-Dining Table
By Elizabeth Ironmonger

My father, William H. Hogg (called Billy) and my mother Fannie E. Winder were married November 28, 1888, in the home of the bride. The Reverend W.R Webb performed the ceremony. They went to the home of his parents on Wormley's Creek Road to live while their home was being built on a thirty-one acre tract that my father had purchased. By 1890 they were able to move into their own home. Meanwhile, they had begun to accumulate furniture for their dwelling.

Among the furnishings was a medium sized kitchen table. It is about forty inches by fifty inches and is made of solid cherry wood. The strong sturdy legs are tapered. It was put together with pegs. It is highly polished and looks beautiful with a crocheted doily in the center on which has been placed a large Tiffany lamp, another family piece.

More Winder, Hogg and Ironmonger family stories follow, which give greater details of the history and culture.

A Tribute to Fannie Bett Hogg
By Thelma Ironmonger Hansford

When Edward Thomas Winder returned from the war in 1865, he sought employment in what he knew best, namely harvesting various products of the sea. At the head of Poquoson River lived Captain Curtis Wainwright, well known at the time for his handling of oysters. Edward Thomas Winder worked for Captain Curt Wainwright. [Also see the Section Cockletown Corridor.]

In the James River there were natural rocks of seed oysters. After these were tonged from the bottom, they were transferred to other rivers where oyster beds were planted. When these had matured, they were again tonged-up and processed for market. Edward Winder worked in this insustry.

The Lindsay Farm, also on Poquoson River, joined the Wainwright property. Edward became acquainted with a Lindsay daughter, and in time, it was only natural when Edward "sought the hand" of Alice Bird Lindsay. Following their marriage in 1866, Edward rented a small cottage located on the County Poor House Farm. A daughter, Frances Elizabeth Winder was born there. She was named "Fannie Bett" but was called "Ma" by her grandchildren.

While Fannie Bett was an infant, the family moved to Piney Point, located on Poquoson River, so Edward continued the type of work that he knew best, namely oystering and fishing.

Fannie Bett, in her later years, reminisced about life at Piney Point. She must have been very fond of her father, Edward, for she became anxious about getting home, after visiting some of her friends, and the evening sun was setting when he was returning home from work. She told about her childhood experiences as she gathered her basket of personal things and made her way home crossing streams and coves after sundown.

A farm came up for sale located at the west end of Piney Point Road, on the main thoroughfare between Burt's Corner (Oriana Road) and the Fish Neck, Railway Road. The farm, of about 85 acres, was owned by Patrick Reade, a colored man, and previously by the Howard-Sheild family.

The Winders bought this farm and their residence was

much like the William and Fannie Bett Hogg house they built on Old Wormley Creek Road, i.e., a story and a half in height with a large room and hall on each floor, a kitchen connected to the main house by a colonnade or breeze-way, and a fireplace in each room.

Edward Winder, Jr., Fannie Bett's brother and a lad at the time, did a laborer's work and gave his earnings to his parents to help make the payments on the Winder home. When the farm was debt-free, a section of the farm east of the house was deeded to Edward Jr. for he had earned it. After his marriage, Edward Jr. constructed his dwelling on that acreage.

Alice Winder died in June 1901 and Edward Sr. continued to live at his farm in view of the fact that Edward Jr. lived nearby. Edward Sr. prepared his own breakfast but took his other meals with his son's family.

With advancing age, Edward Sr. became practically blind from cataracts and moved in with his daughter, Fannie Bett. One of the daughters of Fannie Bett, Alice, was unmarried at the time and tended to him. He called her "Little Alice" for it was she who was named for his wife Alice.

In March 1914, Edward Sr. died. He was positioned on a couch, which was placed in front of the parlor fireplace. Later, Frank Edwards, a funeral director who lived in Poquoson, brought a black casket to the home. Deceased elderly people were buried in black caskets back then. Fannie Bett and daughter Alice made floral arrangements using locally grown jonquils and greenery growth. Wreaths and bouquets, for the casket, were put together in the colonnade, just outside the parlor where the funeral was held. Horse drawn wagons and carriages carried the casket and family to the Pescud family graveyard on Oriana Road where his beloved wife, Alice, had been buried.

Fannie Bett, William Hogg's wife, was very neat and clean. She paid her grandchildren (Thelma and Estelle Ironmonger) a penny for every one hundred weeds pulled-up in the yard near the house. The Hogs never owned a lawn mower, but relied on Lucy, the mule, to graze in the yard. Along with these weeds were knee-high white daisies with yellow centers that grew profusely in Fannie Bett's yard, which irritated her. These were teasingly referred to her as

Ma Bett's flowers.

She was particularly clean in her manner of housekeeping, so much so, that as her grandchildren grew older, they considered her quite peculiar. The grandchildren were only allowed in the kitchen and a bedroom, traveling shoeless from one to the other on the outside of the house on wide boards, referred to as "walking down the plank". These planks were swept several times a day in case a leaf or chicken speck had fallen. It had to be kept clean!

Inside the house, cleanliness was taken to all time high when cleaning the stair steps. She didn't use a broom; instead, she used a wild turkey wing and wished down each step with those feathers and a soft rag. She blew, with her breath, into every corner to dislodge any speck of dust that may be residing there. The stairway was never painted, and it was bright and beautiful even when the house was abandoned.

Fannie Bett was most intelligent and had a superb appreciation for education and knowledge. Her parents sent her to Nashville, Tennessee, to receive schooling from great aunts, three of whom had graduated from Chowan College. Not only was "book learning" stressed, but also were manners and social refinement equally important. She became a genteel young lady, a product of the time when only limited public education was available. Ma Bett's neatness, cleanliness and carefulness became natural qualities in her conduct as she grew to womanhood. Her attitude toward education became a priority among her children and grandchildren. Also instilled in Fannie was pride in her ancestry, which carried over to her descendents.

Appearance and dress was a priority both with Fannie and her children. She never cut the hair of her daughter, Elizabeth (Bessie) Hogg (Ironmonger), and combed and brushed her hair every day and tied it with silk ribbon bows. Her classmates received no such grooming and only a few had silk ribbon bows. Fannie had a special seamstress. Mrs. Vera Groves lived in Grafton and was employed to fashion garments according to the styles of the day. Such tailoring was considered superior to the readymade garments of the day. This required many visits to the several general stores to find the precise materials.

Fannie Bett had a love for beauty. In the yard midway to the road her flower garden was fenced because Lucy, the mule, grazed in the yard. The garden was properly laid out with a narrow walk -way and a one-foot wide border around the perimeter containing sweet violets. The garden also contained sweet Williams, chrysanthemums, four o'clock, an evergreen with a waxy texture, and a few other plants. Under the parlor window there was a large growth of acacia; this was a perennial that bore puffs of blossoms. Under the bushes and plants periwinkle lived and bloomed abundantly. Even years later, after the house had been demolished and the cherry tree had died from old age, periwinkle continued to survive; it had spread where the house had stood, even over into the driveway. She had boxes and stands containing geraniums and calla lilies outside in the yard. In winter she wanted the mid-day sun on them; otherwise, they were moved inside, into the hall or the kitchen depending on the temperature. But in summer, she had them sitting in shade, and as the sun got higher and warmer, she moved those heavy boxes into the shade. Fannie was a little woman, probably weighing about one hundred pounds, yet daily she lifted and toted those heavy plants. She shared her flowers with her children and grandchildren. She brought home a cutting from a plant (rose geranium) she called a "Hornet's Nest Geranium". The occasion for this name: she received it from a cousin who had a very vocal and fractious wife who created much friction.

Fannie was never employed outside the home, but she always had some money. For example, she sold eggs from her hens, hulled black walnuts she gathered, and shelled black-eye peas that grew between the rows of corn. When her father Edward Winder died, she inherited one-half the estate, sold this to her brother, and placed the money in the bank to draw interest.

After all grandchildren were gone, Fannie Bett lived alone with her cat. The last year of her life at ninety she moved to live with Bessie Ironmonger her daughter. Her love of flowers never waned as she walked around the property, picked flowers, and continued to make tiny bouquets. Eventually, she was a patient of Horn Harbor Nursing Home in Mathews County where she died in less than six months, February 13, 1958.



Above: William H. and Fannie Bett (Winder) Hogg, 1907
Below: Bessie Hogg, Teacher and her class, St. Michael's School, Dandy, 1908





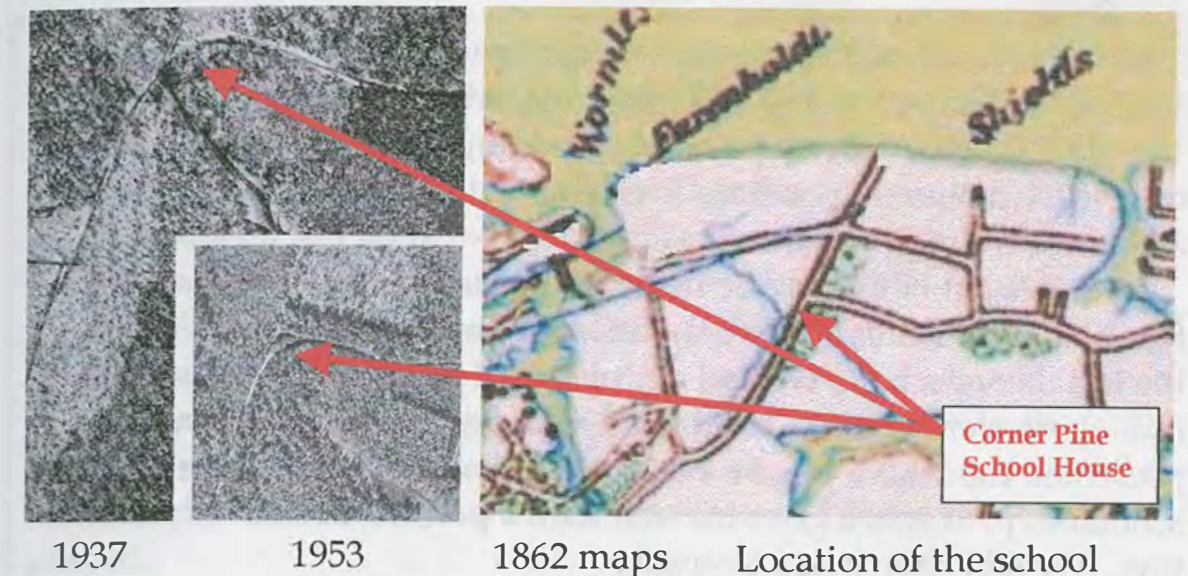
School Days

The old Corner Pine School House is gone! The exact date of its erection is vague, but it could not have been too long after the Virginia Public School System came into being back in 1870. It was only a little one-room school where "reading, writing, and arithmetic" were taught to those of two or three generations ago.

It had no conveniences for a school as conveniences of today are reckoned. Its ceiled walls were never painted. Its heavy wooden window blinds, with iron hooks, were opened mornings and closed when school "let out" at 4:00 P.M.

Do you wonder how teacher and pupils could tell the time of day at old "Corner Pine"? Watches and clocks were very scarce in those days, so the sundial method was adopted and notches were cut on the floor where the sun shone through the door, to mark the different hours of the day. Of course, the sundial marks time only on sunny days, so it had to be "guess-work" on cloudy and rainy days in determining recess time and the closing hour.

It has been years since the old school building housed pupils and teacher, since lessons were recited and recess time was filled with games and shouts and laughter of children. Time made its mark on the old building and gradually age and the elements caused it to deteriorate. Trees and bushes grew up in the small space that once was the cleared playground, trimmed around by the forest on three sides and the Goodwin's Neck Road out front. And now that the oil company is preparing to build its huge refinery on the York River, the old school site is included in the 1200-acre tract of land. Tractors and bulldozers have been most active in clearing preparations, and thus have removed every trace of what the "old timers" remember as the "Corner Pine School". Annie Elwood Shield went to this school in 1882. My father, William Henry Hogg, attended school at the same time. Cyrus Rosser James taught school here between 1875 and 1883.



1937

1953

1862 maps

Location of the school

School Days by Elizabeth Ironmonger

1899-1900

In the fall of 1899 the men in the Hornsbyville and Wormley's Creek areas set about to have a school at Hornsbyville.

Mr. Leroy Hornsby of Crab Neck had rented an empty store building at the crossroads. He set up a store there, thus the section was called Hornsbyville.

The men of the community met and decided that they would petition the County School Board to rent an empty single story dwelling. This was a house in the yard of Hornsby's store to be used five months for a school building for the year 1899-1900. The board passed this and the children would no longer have to take the three-mile walk to Grafton School.

We went to school at the new location close to home. None of us knew the name of the teacher. My mother told me to ask her what was her name. The third day at school I said to her, "Teacher, what is your name?"

She replied, "I am Miss Maude Breathwait of Williamsburg. You all may call me Miss Maude." She boarded in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Copeland Shields, which was reasonably close to the school.

Under Miss Maude, brother and I advanced to the Third Reader by McGuffey, a second section of the Holmes spelling book, Elementary Geography, a Primary Grammar, and a writing Copy Book.

One day at lunch as I opened my bucket and took out bread and a big slice of fried ham, it smelled so good that Miss Maude said to me, "Bessie, I'd like to have a piece of your ham. I'll trade you a piece of my pie for a piece of your ham." Of course I agreed to the trade. We enjoyed our lunch together.

School at Hornsbyville under Miss Maude Breathwait went forward successfully for five months. During the middle of March, the last day of school, we had a program of recitations, songs and then there were games. Then I had a surprise, Miss Breathwait presented me with a prize for best attendance and excellence in scholarship. It was a glass inkwell with a pen, set in a silver plated tray. We still have it as a keepsake.

1900-1901

The school patrons in the Hornsbyville-Wormley's Creek area in the fall of 1900 were faced with a dilemma. They had no school building to house the public school in October. They petitioned the York County School Board for help. There was no vacant building in the community to be rented as they had the previous year. There were no funds available to build a one-room school in the community. Finally they thought of using the Grafton Baptist Church there in the Hornsbyville area. A church meeting was called and the matter was laid out before the church officials. It was decided to allow the School Board to set up school in the church building.

On the first Monday in October school opened in the Baptist Church with Mr. S. Scott Hogge as the teacher.

Certain restrictions were placed on the use of the church. Pupils could not go into the pulpit. They could use only the first two benches on either side of the aisle. Care was to be taken of the two front benches and pews. A shelf was built and fastened to the back of the two front benches to accommodate the pupils for writing. A small table was set up at the head of the aisle for the teacher's desk.

Under these conditions, on the first Monday in October 1900 the Hornsbyville Public School was called to order in the Baptist Church.

Mr. Hogge believed in corporal punishment. He brought in several switches and laid them across his desk. He opened school with The Lord's Prayer. He then began to classify the children according to their schoolbooks. He gave notes for other books to be bought.

Brother and I were to begin by reviewing the first half of the Elementary Arithmetic. We started English Grammar, Elementary Geography, another section of Holme's Speller, the fourth Reader, and a copybook.

At recess we played games in the churchyard. Fox in the Gully, Prisoner's Base, High Over Anthony (throwing a ball over the roof of the church) and Farmer in the Dell were some of the games we played.

School "took in" at 9:00 a.m., closed at 4:00 p.m., and we had an hour recess from 12 o'clock to 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Hogge usually spent the recess hour down at Hornsby's store, leaving the children eating their lunches and playing games.

As I have said, Mr. Hogge believed in corporal punishment. With his bunch of switches he often whipped a boy or girl breaking the rules of his school or for unlearned lessons. Brother got switched two or three times during the session.

One day his daughter, Iola Hogge, broke a rule or did not know her lesson. Mr. Hogge thrashed her with a switch. The children stood in fear of him.

When the five-month session came to a close the middle of March, there was no special program or entertainment for school closing. Lessons were recited and heard as usual, recess was called and games were played until 4:00 p.m. when school was dismissed for a spring and summer vacation.

Members of the school for 1900-1901 were: Eddie and Charlie Hogg, Jim and Joe DeAlba, Irwin, Herman and Percy Moreland, Bessie Hogg, Annie Harris, Carrie and Annie DeAlba, and Mr. Hogg's children, Marion, Lula, Mattie, Iola and Verna.

In the summer of 1901 Mama suggested that Brother and I should study arithmetic and work the examples and problems. When school had closed we were up to the section on common fractions. We devised a plan. Brother would take the arithmetic book over to Hornsby's store and ask Mr. Leroy Hornsby to show him how to

work examples on fractions. He would them come home and explain them to me. We worked in our arithmetic according to this plan all summer. Mr. Hornsby taught us addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions. He carried us through the entire common fraction section. When we started to school in October we were prepared to work the fraction section in our arithmetic.

1901-1902

The Hornsbyville Public School opened the first Monday in October 1901, again in the Baptist Church. Mr. Scott Hogge was the teacher for a second session in this locality. School was a repetition of the previous year and Mr. Hogge was just as strict and cross as formerly.

We had "cutting up and down" in reciting our lessons in class. As an example, the geography class was made up of about eight or nine of the most advanced pupils and some younger pupils. The older pupils were at the head of the class and tapering down to the foot of the class. We stood in a row up and down the aisle of the church. Mr. Hogge asked the question of the pupil at the head of the class. The boy missed it. He asked the same question of the next pupil who also missed it. It was passed by about five pupils and came to me. I answered correctly, "Lake Michigan". I don't remember the question, but I remember that the answer was Lake Michigan. Mr. Hogge scolded the children who missed the answer. He said to me, "Go up to the head of the class". All those who had missed it had to step down and I went up to the head of the class. This was "cutting up and down". He shamed those who missed the answer. He praised me saying, "You big children have missed the answer and this little girl was smarter than you were".

One day during recess Iola Hogge, Anne Harris and I went into the woods that joined the church grounds to dig for "lucky nuts". We found the single leaf plants and began to dig for nuts. We worked at it some time. Finally, we noticed that the schoolyard had become real quiet. We had lost count of time. Recess was over; Mr. Hogge had come back from Hornsby's store and had taken in school. We decided to investigate. Annie would go and see if recess was over.

She went, found it quiet and did not come back to tell us, but went in church to her seat. Iola and I waited several minutes and I decided to go and investigate. Away I went to the church door, found school had taken in, and I crept into the building to my seat. About ten minutes later Iola came in. Mr. Hogge gave us three girls a good tongue-lashing. He threatened to whip us with the switches. We were thankful that we missed a beating.

Mr. Hogge was appointed teacher for Hornsbyville School to teach in the church for a third term. Mama and Papa decided to send Brother and me to Saint Michael's School in Goodwin's Neck for the next session, and thus avoid Mr. Scott Hogge's further cruelty.

1903-1903

Saint Michael's School
was located where
Dandy Baptist is today.

One Sunday in September 1902 my family visited in the home of Mr. And Mrs. Charlie Burcher on the York-Warwick County line. There they learned that our cousin, Mamie Burcher (and their daughter) had been notified by the York County School Board that she had been given the school in Goodwin's Neck for the 1902-03 session. It was "Saint Michael's School."

Mama and Papa talked it over with the Burchers and they decided to overlook our attending the Hornsbyville School. We would again take a three-mile walk, but this time to attend Goodwin's Neck School.

On the first Monday in October 1902 this school opened at 9:00 a.m. with Miss Mamie Burcher as teacher. Brother and I were among the students enrolled.

Cousin Mamie boarded in the home of Mrs. Lucy Minson Hogge, right near the school. She opened school with the Lord's Prayer in unison. She then began to arrange the children in classes according to the books they had been studying. For the new session some new books had to be bought for Brother and me. We were to study the Practical Arithmetic, United States History, the large Geography, Intermediate Grammar, Merrill's Speller, and Primary Physiology. There was also a number four Copybook. We no longer used slates but wrote on tablet paper.

Among those children enrolled were Nina and Annie Crockett,

Addie and Hattie Shields, Ethel and Vivian Williams, Eva Wood, Bett Hogge, Georgie, Dora and Tillie Hornsby, Edna Owens, Edith and Nettie Belle Swartz, Mary Dawson, Bessie Hogg, Luther and Winston Dawson, Jeff and Freddy Hansford, Eddie Hogg (not my brother), Gertie Hogg and my brother Eddie Hogg. There may have been two or three more children whose names I have forgotten.

School opened at 9:00 a.m. and closed at 4:00 p.m. There was an hour recess at noon. We ate our lunches and then played games on the school grounds and in the woods nearby. "Following up the Captain" was a favorite game.

The afternoon session consisted of more classes and at 4:00 p.m. when school closed, brother and I took the three-mile walk back home.

The school session ran five months, closing about the middle of March.

1904-1905

When school opened the first Monday in October 1903, Brother and I took the three-mile walk again to Saint Michael's School in Goodwin's Neck. It was again a five-month's public School session.

Miss Mary Hogge was the new teacher. She also boarded in the home of Mrs. Lucy Minson Hogge. After opening exercises Miss Mary examined the children's reports of their classes and set up a lesson routine. We had arithmetic first thing in the morning and the lesson period ran an hour and a half.

This session was very similar to last session's arrangement under Miss Mamie Burcher. The school went forward in a satisfactory way for five months. The last day of school, classes were held only a half-day. The afternoon was given over to school games in the schoolyard. We bade Miss Mary good-bye and went home.

1904-1905

Schools in York County still ran only five months. My parents looked for a larger school for brother to attend. They finally chose West Point Female and Normal Institute, a Boarding Private High

School in West Point, Virginia.

Alice was old enough to study at home.

Mama and Papa wanted to send me to Hampton to school. It would open the fifteenth of September and run nine months. They hoped to board me in the home of Cousin Betty Ann Hogg Wilson.

The middle of September 1904 Mama packed my suitcase and Papa and I drove to Hampton, a twenty-five mile drive. We went to the home of Cousin Bett Wilson. She had three children and felt she could not take me to board and send to school. She recommended a Mrs. Topping who lived on Armistead Avenue who she thought might consider boarding me. We went to Mrs. Topping's home where they talked awhile about the school situation. She agreed to take me.

Mrs. Topping had a daughter named Nora, a son whose name was Brownie and a younger son whose name I have forgotten. Papa left me with Mrs. Topping and felt pleased that there was a girl in the home that he thought would be a companion for me.

In a day or two we started to school at the West End Grammer School. Nora had several girl friends; among them were Alice Curtis and Lola Shields. We all went together to school.

School "took in" and then we were told that the Armistead Avenue children must attend the East End School. We walked from there to Sims-Eaton Academy, where we were received. We were given a list of books, which I bought.

I was not happy with my surroundings. I had to sleep with Nora. Every thing was strange and I longed to go home.

I went to school two weeks at Sims-Eaton Academy. On the last Saturday in September Mama, Papa and Alice came to Hampton to see how I was getting along. There had been no communication between us during the two weeks. This was before the day of telephone in the home.

I was delighted to see them and I said, "I'm going home with you." They saw that I was unhappy both in school and in the home. I got Mama aside and told her I thought I was too young to be "on my own". I felt that my hair needed washing and I could not take care of it alone. My nice clean long hair had always been a thing of pride with both Mama and me.

Mama told Mrs. Topping, "We'll take Bessie home with us." She packed my suitcase. Papa paid Mrs. Topping for two weeks board for me. We left Hampton to drive the twenty-five miles back home.

Mama went right to work washing my soiled clothes and getting me ready for school at Hornsbyville. I would repeat the schoolwork I had done last year. Alice and I would go to school that would open the first Monday in October. This would be her first year at school.

In 1904 the men in Hornsbyville had built a small one-room school on a lot joining the Baptist Church grounds. In October of that year school opened in the new Hornsbyville schoolhouse.

Miss Mary Hogge, who had taught the past year in Goodwin's Neck, was the teacher.

The three Moreland boys had moved away but the Cooper family from Minnesota came and settled in the Lee Davis home. Three of their sons Fred, Albert and Walter were added to the roll of Hornsbyville School. Eugenia Harris and Sheildie Harris accompanied Annie Harris to school.

Uncle Marce Callis and Aunt Rosa and their children had moved to Hornsbyville. Their children Bessie and Luther also attended this school.

Miss Mary Hogge used the same schoolbooks for me that I had studied the year before. There was sufficient subject matter for me to study. I had lessons in Practical Arithmetic, Advanced Geography, United States History, Intermediate Grammar, Physiology, Civic Government and the Advanced Copy Book.

The schools in York County ran for six months this year. They closed about the middle of April.

Miss Mary was a good teacher and all went well with the school. There were no discipline problems in our school.

Thus ended my school days in York County.

[Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger attended Woman's College of Richmond, Virginia 1905-1907. This school later became Westhampton College of the University of Richmond. To travel to the college, Bess would travel by horse and buggy to Lee Hall and board the train for Richmond. Bess was fourteen on October 4, 1905.]

Some Trees and Shrubs on Wormley's Creek Plantation

By Elizabeth Ironmonger

In 1814 John Hogg, Senior of Gloucester bought the Wormley's Creek Plantation. In 1841 he made his will leaving a portion to his wife and mentioned the toothache tree. More specifically, he wrote "commencing at the toothache tree and running down the lane a south course to the old mill dam." This identifies the area where the toothache tree was growing. It was in the northeast corner of my father's yard when he built his home in 1889 and it was a landmark.

Through the years this toothache tree or others that have sprung from it have flourished. In my day (1891-1984) it was more of a thorny shrub than a tall tree. The leaves were very glossy and they had a sharp, aromatic taste if put into one's mouth, causing the tongue to burn.

Besides the original tree, in later years there was a cluster of toothache bushes up the lane, between our gate and uncle Lewis Hogg's yard; possibly seeds from our plant were dropped by the birds.

Another species of trees on the Hogg home site was the catalpa tree. There were three large catalpa trees in Grandpa Sam Hogg's front yard. They had very large leaves, almost as large as a palm leaf fan, and in the spring there were large clusters of lavender-colored blossoms, with a fragrance that could be smelled at our home, up the lane from Grandpa's home. Later as the blooms faded, long seedpods were produced and the boys would pull these off and pretend to smoke them as cigars. There were yellow acacia shrubs. My mother had a large acacia bush just in front of our house. It was a hardy plant. She had propagated it from a plant in her parent's home in Fish Neck. In spring, summer, and fall it had lovely yellow blooms like little puffballs on a stalk. This shrub had some special meaning for my father since it seemed to be related in some Biblical way to a fraternal order to which he belonged.

There was also one of the yellow acacia bushes in Aunt Emily and Uncle Lewis Hogg's front yard.

Cherry trees grew there. In Grandpa's Sam Hogg's yard, right near the well, there was a very large black heart cherry tree. In

spring it was covered with white cherry blossoms; in summer it was laden with big black heart cherries.

On the south side of our yard at home, likewise, there was a large black heart cherry tree. It was not far from the kitchen and colonnade back doors. In season, it too was a mass of white cherry blossoms, which produced quantities of fruit. Because of its thick circle of shade, this tree took the place of a back porch, where vegetables were prepared for cooking; and where the laundry was done. Two chairs from the kitchen were placed under the tree, and the washing tub was set on these and the washboard was in the tub. Thus it was there that my mother attended to the family laundry in the summer time.

The shade of this cherry tree made a comfortable place to sit and read. My father read the Religious Herald, his Baptist Church paper, sitting under the shade of the old cherry tree.

As time went by the medium-sized tree grew into quite a large specimen, the tree trunk measuring two and a half to three feet in diameter. I think Charlie Hogg fell out of it when he was a little boy and broke his arm.

Paradise trees grew there too. There were several Paradise trees growing in my father's yard. I think the first one of them we had was transplanted from Grandpa Winder's yard. Others came up from the original tree, for they are a self-propagating tree.

Another flowering shade tree in our yard was the locust tree; in fact, there were four of these about in our yard. In May they bore beautiful bunches of sweet smelling white flowers that later turned into seedpods.

One of these locust trees was planted by the footpath leading from the gate to the house. Under this tree my mother had a flower stand, full of potted geraniums, Wandering Jew, and Jerusalem cherries. One tree that grew near the kitchen door grew so tall that lightning stuck it. My mother had a "dairy house" setting under it.

The black walnut was another interesting tree. There were two very large ones in our yard. One was in the back yard near the barn and the well; the other one was down by the front gate. Sometimes the walnuts fell into the road.

In her later years my mother picked up the walnuts as they ripened and fell to the ground; she hulled them very carefully, and sold them in the fall to friends to put in their fruitcakes.

When John Hogg, Junior settled on the Wormley's Creek farm, he selected a site for a family cemetery. This was just "across the field" from my father's back yard. A huge mulberry tree was growing on the northwest side of the cemetery. At its base a large wild grapevine threw out its branches encircling the mulberry tree, which had a big hollow in its trunk. On the southern end of the cemetery there was a big pine, under which were buried John Hogg and his "beloved wife", owners and settlers of the Wormley's Creek Plantation. They are resting beside each other. We never knew her name, but she was so designated as "beloved wife" in his will.

Excerpts from Old Fly
By Elizabeth Ironmonger

"Old Fly", our family horse, was bought by my father around 1894-1895 from some person who had used him as a racehorse in tournaments. The long continued excessive speed of these races injured the animal, causing him to be wind-broken and thus not suitable for further racing. Therefore, he was put up for sale and my father bought him to fill the need for a gentle horse that my mother and the children could manage.

Old Fly was a pretty horse. His coat of horsehair was of a dark brown color. He had a brown flowing main, while his face was emphasized with a white strip from his eyes down to his upper lip.

His gentle nature caused him to be appreciated by every one of our family and we lovingly called him "Old Fly".

I. Old Fly on the Road 1895-1898

In purchasing Old Fly my father regarded him as a capable and sound family horse to be driven moderately in carrying out reasonable requirements of hauling, driving, etc.

Father tended a small crop of corn in season, and at other times he engaged in the fishing business.

During the summer seasons he, with another man as a helper, would go fishing at night, by moonlight, with a haul seine, to catch jumping mullets. He would work until midnight and catch hundreds of fish to sell on the road early next morning as he peddled the fish to housewives along the way.

Papa had a very large conch shell for a fish horn, into which he blew, thus making a loud noise to notify the housewives that he was approaching with fish to sell. Old Fly seemed to understand the procedure, for he too, would slacken his gait, and stop as the customer came out to select a "mess of fish". That sale completed, my father would blow his horn and drive on to the next customer. In this way the whole load of fish was sold for a good price, which repaid my father for his work while the procedure was counted a benefit for the citizens along the way.

I am reminded of the many times I accompanied my Papa in this occupation. I think of the bags of candy that he bought and we ate, as we drove along. They were happy days for this little growing girl, and the remembrance of them is pleasing as years go by.

[Thelma Hansford notes that Thelma and her sister enjoyed this same kind of activity as they accompanied Pa Billy in his small automobile-truck during the weeks of summer vacation spent with their grandparents. Not only did Thelma ride with him, but he took her fishing one night also.]

II. Some Incidents of Old Fly's Service

My father's small farm of thirty-one acres of cleared or open field, which he farmed in season, provided provender for the stock and a garden of vegetables for the family. Old Fly was hitched to the farm implements to cultivate the crops during the spring and summer months. In our daily living there were many, many times when Old Fly was used by us to carry out the running of other errands besides peddling the fish and tending the farm and garden crops.

The family needed the services of an excellent laundress occasionally. "Aunt" Martha Washington, a colored woman who lived in Fish Neck, was such a person. It was a five-mile drive to carry our basket of soiled (and dirty) special dresses, shirts, and other

household lines to her home on Patrick's Creek, for her to launder them.

Old Fly was pressed into service for these errands that my brother and father ran.

When "Aunt" Martha had finished the job of washing, starching, and ironing our clothes, she would carefully place them in a big basket that her husband, "Uncle Peter Washington, might bring them to us at Wormley's Creek.

As Mama removed each piece, he would stand by and accept her approval of "work well done" and say to her, "I s'pose you are satisfied Ma'am". In reply, she would thank him and pay him a suitable price for the service he and "Aunt" Martha had rendered us.

Another trip that I remember was an all-day's visit with Uncle Marce Callis and Aunt Rosa at their home in Poquoson. Our good family horse, Old Fly was hitched to the wagon for this visit and we started quite early in the morning to drive the many, many miles to our destination. Fly would trot a while and then he would slow down his gait and walk a few minutes; then he would trot again, and thus alternate his travel until we came to the Callis' home. We had a nice family visit and delicious dinner; then quite early in the afternoon Old Fly was hitched up and the journey back home to Wormley's Creek took place.

III. An Evening's Outing, Christmas 1907

My father, William H. Hogg, and my brother, Eddie Hogg, were engaged in a fishing experiment on the James River in the fall and winter of 1907. In preparation for this business venture their motorboat and bateau were run from Wormley's Creek, off York River, around Old Point, Virginia, and up the James River to Skiff's Creek where they built a comfortable cabin on a point of land that is now within the Fort Eustis area. They set their nets on the James River. To market their catch they crossed the river, a five-mile run to Homeward Wharf. They soon became acquainted with Mr. Golden and his sons, Ashton and Winnie who lived around Homeward and this brought about a very friendly association between the Hogg family and the Golden family.

On an afternoon during 1907 Christmas week, Mama, Alice, and I drove Old Fly from our house on Wormley's Creek over the fifteen mile road to Skiff's Creek in Warwick County and thus to Papa's camp. There Fly was unhitched, fed, and tethered. We boarded Papa's motorboat and went across the James to the home of the Golden family.

Mrs. Golden served a bountiful Christmas dinner at 6:00 p.m. after which we were entertained with parlor games, Christmas songs, and Victrola music.

About 9:00 p.m. we bade the Golden family members a friendly adieu and boarded Papa's boat for the five-mile run across the James River to the Skiff's Creek camp.

Papa hitched Old Fly to the wagon for Mama, Alice, and me to drive the fifteen miles of wood laden roads, after 10:00 p.m., back to the Yorktown highway and thence down the road the remaining four miles to our Wormley's Creek residence.

As we left Papa's Skiff's Creek cabin and got on the road leading out of Mulberry Island, we realized that it was so dark we could not see how to guide the horse and keep him in the road. Everything was "pitch-dark". I was driving and so, I just gave the horse the reins and let him take us home. I never tried to trot him; I just let him walk all the way, choosing the road himself.

We got home after midnight, put away the horse, after petting him some for being so smart and taking care of us. Then, unlocking the door, we entered our warm home, sat around and talked about our enjoyable evening, and expressed our gratitude for a safe return home, giving thanks for the leadership of our "Old Fly".

IV. Old Fly on the Railroad Track

One morning in the spring of 1908 it was necessary for me to drive over to my father's camp at Skiff's Creek on the James River. The route I would travel led through Hogg's Field in York County, across McCauley's Run, and over ten miles of the woods road that ran by the wire-enclosed Warwick Reservoir reservation.

I harnessed Old Fly, our good family horse, hitched him to the wagon for the trip and we were on our way through Warwick woods.

As we neared the Reservoir crossing, I was startled to see that the bridge leading to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad tracks and over the Reservoir road was impassable. I stopped Old Fly, dismounted from the wagon, surveyed the situation, and made plans for a substitute passage.

Taking Old Fly by his bridle and leading him, we turned the wagon on to a path that paralleled the railroad tracks. As I talked to him we advanced past the road obstruction. And then I turned him again, this time looking toward Lee Hall (or Richmond), led him up on the roadbed of the number one railroad track (there being two tracks running parallel on this route) and thus we advanced a few Yards.

As we were moving along, a passenger train with whistle blowing and smoke flying was coming towards us on the number two track, thus facing Old Fly. He whinnied once or twice as the train bore down on us, and while holding his bridle, I patted his nose and talked to him kindly, saying, "Woe Fly, woe Fly; it's all right. Nothing is going to hurt you."

The train soon passed us, with the Conductor waving at us, and we came off the railroad tracks and on to the Reservoir Crossing. Stopping Old Fly, I returned to my seat in the wagon, and soon we arrived at my father's camp. He was pleased and proud of the way that Old Fly and I handled a difficult situation.

V. A Sunday Afternoon Visit, March 1909

Old Fly was grazing in the Hogg family pasture beside our farmyard on the first Sunday in March 1909, while Papa and Brother prepared to return to their fishing camp at Skiff's Creek on the James River. After they left, Mama decided that she, Alice, and I would spend the afternoon visiting some relatives.

She called to me and said, "Bessie, you go down into the pasture, catch Old Fly, and bring him into the farmyard. Then hitch him up to the buggy, tie him up, and you come in and dress. We are going to spend the afternoon visiting Cousin Sallie Burcher's family over on the York-Warwick boundary."

I did as she said, going down the pasture whistling to Old Fly,

and taking him by the forelock of his mane, I led him home where I soon hitched him up and tied him to the cherry tree.

Incidentally, Mama being opposed to Wes' courting me, she was putting obstacles in our way at every opportunity. She knew I was expecting Wes to call on me Sunday in mid-afternoon and she planned to "break the date", by this visit with Cousin Sallie.

We had a large flower pit on the sunny side of the henhouse, covered with window sashes. We stored our geraniums in the pit in winter, covering them at night with windows and a waterproof cover and exposing them to the sunshine during the day.

Before we left this Sunday, we debated whether we should cover the pit. Mama suggested it be covered, but I hesitated, saying the flowers would be safe from cold until we returned.

And so, the three of us drove out of the yard, up the lane, around the corner of woodland, out of sight of home, talking about the flowers as we went. Then I agreed with Mama that it might be better after all, for me to run back and cover the flower pit.

I left Mama and Alice with the horse and rig, and I ran quite hurriedly to cover the flower pit, stopping on the way to tell Cousin Irene Hogg where we were going and leaving with her a message for Wes who would be passing by her home later in the afternoon, on his way to my house. It was the best I could do. I could not avoid the breaking of the date, but at least he would know where I was.

Mama wanted to get some advice from Cousin Sallie as to the best way to break up our courtship since Cousin Sallie's very young son had eloped with a girl, leaving his parents quite upset.

Her advice to Mama was to lift the pressure and soften her attitude or we too, might elope. Well, after all, the pressure was not lifted and within a very short time Wes (John Wesley Ironmonger) and I eloped to North Carolina and were married March 10, 1909.

Epilog: Wes and I returned to Crab Neck from North Carolina and we lived in the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Jake Ironmonger a year or more while our house was being built.

We moved into our own home May 1910; and so Old Fly was no longer a part of my home. He lived two or three years after I was married and he was replaced by a mule for the farm and by a Ford automobile for the road.

The William H. Hogg Homestead By Thelma Hansford

The William Hogg (called Billy) homestead had a small house yet there were four spacious rooms and two large halls. Fannie Winder Hogg, wife of William, called the one upstairs an "entry" and it was really a bedroom too.

The ceiling upstairs was low for the house was classified as "story and a half" in height, but this seemed no problem. Fannie had a trunk and two chests that fitted nicely under the eaves. The headboards of the beds were against the tall partition between the two rooms.

There were two fireplaces: one in the "big room" or "parlor" downstairs, and one in the upstairs bedroom. Over each fireplace was a mantel and Fannie had all kinds of pretty things setting on her mantels.

On either side of the upstairs fireplace was a half-size window that looked down toward Wormley's Creek. There was a big short-tag pine tree at the edge of the yard also in view from those windows. Either of these sights could have been beautiful subjects for an artist.

Fannie and the children sat upstairs each night when Billy was away at his fishing camp on James River. This practice of sitting upstairs carried over to the children and grandchildren as a pattern of living. Very often, in the wintertime, when the male parent was not at home, the female parent and the children went to an upstairs bedroom. They sat around a hot fire in a big "king heater", the children studied lessons or played, and the mother sewed at sewing machines. It was not unusual for a child's bed to be moved from a small bedroom to the parent's bedroom during mid-winter weather.

The Hogg home downstairs hall also served as another room instead of just a passageway. With a door on all four sides, there was always a delightful breeze running through it during hot summer evenings. The cherry tree provided shade during the hot summer days, but afternoon "naps" took place on pallets in the hall floor. Fannie stretched a curtain east and west in the hall and cut off space for privacy and another bed, evidently a three-quarter bed that belonged to Fannie's father, Ed Winder. This arrangement afforded a

place for any overnight guest, such as a visiting preacher at the Chapel or some relative.

There was a roll top desk that fit perfectly in that hall. Billy and Fannie's son, Eddie, took the desk to his home after he became a lawyer.

Fannie had two dining tables. Sometimes both were in the kitchen on opposite sides of the room, but occasionally one would be placed in the hall. She arranged her glassware and special dishes on this table, among them a clear glass water pitcher fashioned on a footing. On the sides of the pitcher was an Egyptian scene in white. Years later, Fannie's granddaughter found the pitcher in her father's old barn. The footing was broken and the pitcher itself was cracked. Later, it was found out what happened.

Fannie had gathered a large bunch of chrysanthemums one fall and arranged them in water in the pitcher. (She loved Flowers.) The weather unexpectedly became cold; the water froze and burst that pitcher. Fannie kept the pitcher. Sometime later, the pet cat jumped on the table and knocked the pitcher on the floor. The pitcher's footing was broken. Fannie put the pitcher in the barn.

There were other incidences in that downstairs hall. Joseph, a child who lived "up the lane" was covered with poison oak from his head to his toes. He was in a pitiful condition. Fannie got word to Bessie that she needed a large quantity of "woods-bugle salve" to treat the child.

This salve, which is made from a wild plant, is a "sure cure" for poison oak. Since that little blue blossom plant grows profusely in our yard, Bessie soon had a pan full of vegetation stewing down, ready for the lard to convert it into an ointment. The hateful thing though is the mess it made as the water and lard boiled together. The water "popped" all over the stove. The process finally yielded about a pint of salve.

Bessie did not drive a car. She sent one of her daughters to Wormley's Creek with the medication. Meanwhile, Fannie had bathed the little boy and fixed him a comfortable pallet on the hall floor. It was private and cool in there. Soon she had him greased from head to foot; and he lay naked in that room until the poison oak had cleared up! The child then returned to his home. This was just

one ordeal that the family experienced.

The stairway in that house was pretty. No paint or varnish was ever put on those steps or the floor. They remained bright like new wood. Fannie was a most careful and particular person in managing and using her possessions. She not only kept a "clean house", she kept a spotless house! So, when she cleaned down the steps she used a turkey wing and a dust cloth. After brushing each step carefully, she blew hard into the corner and at the stairway spokes; then she wiped every place with the rag. One could hear Fannie "huffing" and "puffing" as she cleaned her stairway and that would be daily if anyone slept upstairs. After her children grew up and moved away, Fannie never let her grandchildren walk in the other part of the house with their shoes on. That meant they stayed mostly in the kitchen until bedtime, and they walked in their stocking feet when they entered her hall and bedrooms anywhere. Consequently, the floors were protected and remained pretty until vandals destroyed the house after her death. There were no porches or stoops on this house, but at all four outside doors, she laid bricks to form a neat entrance. These "patios" were probably four to six feet square.

There were blinds at the windows. Some of these were frequently closed because Fannie believed that the sun faded some of her things. In warm weather, on the blind hooks, she regularly hung buckets of plants: the oxalis; little portulaca; and spotted leaf vinca. She did have a love of beauty and these plants added a bit of color to the white house.

Fannie lived alone in that house in her old age, and more or less stayed in the two connecting rooms: the kitchen and the middle room. Her son Eddie was most attentive and saw to it that she was comfortable. He had the house connected to the electricity line thus giving her electric lights, refrigerator, and a two-plate stove, and he installed an oil burning circulator. He purchased her groceries weekly. Bessie was likewise mindful of her needs. Every Sunday Bessie sent a large quantity of prepared food to her by George Morse, a neighbor. The Morses worshipped at Zion Methodist Church and Wesley, Bessie's husband, deposited the box of food into the Morse car. Then Bessie spent one day each week with her. This was usually Wednesday. That meant that Bessie walked the distance for she did not drive.



William and Fannie Bett Hogg Homestead



The Home of Samuel and Maria Hogg
By Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger

The home of my grandparents Samuel and Maria Hogg of York County, Virginia was situated on a high bank of the easternmost branch of Wormley's Creek. A long lane of about five hundred yards led from the public road, down to the yard and house on the creek side. There were about one and one-half acres in the yard, which was enclosed on the landside by a fence. The grass was kept nicely cropped by grandfather's two horses, as they roamed the yard and lane.

On the north side of the yard there was a ravine coming in from the creek. Grandfather had planted fig bushes on the bank above the ravine.

The yard led down the bank to the creek on the east and southeast sides, while along the southern edge of the yard there ran another short ravine from the creek. A big spring of clear, cold water started at the head of the ravine. This was used as a cooling device where grandfather placed watermelons and cantaloupes in season to cool them and improve their delicious flavor.

At the northwest corner of the yard there were three or four wild cherry trees. Large oak trees rimmed the yard on the east the roots of which formed steps down the creek bank to the little pier or wharf where grandfather had two or three small boats tied.

In the front yard there were three catalpa trees. When their large clusters of lavender blossoms opened in the summer, the fragrance could be smelled up the lane, even to our house.

There was a deep well of cold water close to the kitchen. A well sweep, made of a long pole with water bucket attached, was placed in a crotch above the well, and it lifted the buckets of clear, cool water to the brick lined wall curb. Near the well was a large cherry tree that produced quantities of large black-heart cherries in season.

An icehouse had been built under the edge of the creek-side bank at the south end of the yard. It was partly of frame construction and was reinforced on three sides by sod. It was lined with sea oats that were used to cover the ice, as the men cut and stored it in winter, to be used in warm weather.

The outhouses were built on two sides of the yard. A corncrib and two henhouses were located on the north side, and a string of chicken coops reached toward the house. On the opposite side of the yard, above the icehouse, the next building was the smoke house where the meat was smoked, cured, and stored for the family's use.

Grandmother's duck house and pen were between the smoke house and the well. She raised little white ducklings. After a few weeks the baby ducks would grow large enough to be let out of the duck pen and into the creek where they would swim and dive.

Grandfather had a row of beehives near the fig bushes and every year quantities of honey and honeycomb were gathered from the bees and put to good use in the family.

The farmyard joined the family lawn on the southwest. The barn, two horse stables, and the cow pen were all located in this area.

One branch of the seafood industry engaged in by my grandfather (Samuel Hogg) and his sons was that of the sale of diamond back terrapin. This species of edible turtle was caught during the summer months and put in pens built on the mud of Wormley's Creek where the tide ebbed and flowed. They were placed on the market in November and December, by which time a sizeable quantity had accumulated. The terrapin pens were built out on the mud not far from the section of the waterfront where the ice was located.

My grandparent's dwelling house was in line with the long driveway leading from the road. It was of two-story frame construction with a large outside chimney. The main house had a large room and a wide hall with open stairway, which led to the two bedrooms on the second floor. At the back of the hall, a door led into a small room called a colonnade, which had a door in each of its four sides, and windows in two sides of the room. It was sort of a breezeway, but except for its doors and windows, it was enclosed.

Back of the colonnade was Grandmother's kitchen. This was a large room with a chimney flue in the side-back, where her kitchen range was connected. There were three windows in the room and a winding stairway led to a small bedroom with low, sloping sides, above the kitchen. The closet under the stairs made a little pantry. There was a beautiful antique handmade corner cupboard in the northeast corner of the room. This family heirloom belonged to

grandfather's family and was probably made before 1800. It reached from the floor to the ceiling of the room. The two sets of doors for the upper and lower sections of the cupboard were paneled and hand carved. Shelves in the upper section provided storage space for Grandmother's china wear. She had a one hundred piece set of copper-luster ware ironstone china, which added beauty to the cupboard and to the room, as well as its practical use in serving meals.

There was a large breakfast table and chairs in the kitchen and meals were served in that room during the cold season. There was a dining table in the colonnade where the meals were served in the spring and summer. Two pie-safes were nearby. They had perforated tin panels to let the ventilation of air within the pie-safes, thus keeping the food cool and fresh on the shelves.

The big living room had a large open fireplace with mantel above it. Grandmother's eight-day clock sat on the mantel and struck the hour and half-hour. A pair of vases and a few small pictures completed the decoration of the mantel.

A chest of drawers with a mirror above it sat between two of the front windows. On the opposite side of the room there was a washstand with china pitcher and basin on it.

The bed in this room was pushed back to the far corner, behind the door leading from the hallway. The room was sufficiently large to accommodate bedroom furnishings and living room pieces. Several rocking chairs were pulled up around the fireplace for the comfort and convenience of the family and its friends.

As the home was situated on the creek, there was always such activity going on, as many people tied up their small boats at Grandfather's pier. Lone fishermen and groups of people were back and forth as they went out on the creek leading to the York River to engage in the work of fishing, clamming, oystering, and hunting.

Besides the several small boats, Grandfather owned a medium sized Chesapeake Bay canoe, which sailed the waters of Wormley's Creek, York River, and the Chesapeake Bay for both profit and pleasure. The boat was named the "J. T. Hogg".

Grandfather had a modest farm of about thirty acres. Besides a large vegetable garden, he raised corn for food for the horse and cow,

and other crops of peas, green beans, and watermelons for market.

There was a nice double row of apple trees extending from the farmyard gate, down the field, which formed a sort of avenue to an eastern, out-gate from the farm. This driveway through the orchard provided a shorter route to the roads leading to Goodwin's Neck and Crab Neck. It crossed a small ravine coming from the creek and the roadbed across the marsh was made of tree trunks, in what was called a corduroy road.

Our home was near that of my grandparents, so we were in and out of Grandmother's house at any and all times. I liked to visit her when she was putting the house in order. She would let me make up the feather beds and sweep the bedrooms. I could not always get the beds to puff-up with the feathers, but she would show me how to make them look nice, as well as comfortable. She had two daughters, both of whom were married before I came along, so she had no girl to help her with the housework and she seemed to welcome my little visits.

Grandmother did a lot of knitting and it was fun to watch her prepare the wool for her needles. After the sheep were sheared she put the wool in bags, washed it, and hung the bags out for the wool to dry. Next she picked it over to clear it of burrs and small sticks, and then she carded the wool into little round soft curls of fiber, ready to be spun into thread. After this, it was time to get out the spinning wheel and spin the wool into long strands of yarn. For added strength Grandmother twisted a cotton thread with the woolen yarn after the spinning process. Then she unwound the balls of thread and made it into hanks of yarn so that she might dye the finished product different colors. When the hanks of yarn were dyed and dried, they were put on a sort of turntable and the thread was wound into balls, ready for her knitting needles. And now her fingers would fly as she shaped the yarn with those knitting needles into heavy socks and mittens for men. She made these items for the men of the family and also for other men who bought them from her, to use in the rough out-door work during winter. As she sat by the fireplace on winter evenings her time was spent with her knitting.

She could talk or sing while her needles were flying for she was so well trained in the art that she knitted almost automatically. I derived

much pleasure watching her fashion the colorful articles.

My grandparents were members of the Grafton Baptist Church, Grandfather being one of the deacons. They were people of integrity and were given to hospitality. They attended church services regularly and often entertained the minister overnight Saturday when he came to the community for Sunday services.

After the Sunday Church service, a hearty Sunday dinner, possibly an afternoon nap, my parents and their three children often spent Sunday evenings with my grandparents where they conversed about the activities of the day and of community affairs. Their youngest son, my uncle, was still a child and we four children played together while the adults talked over their plans and activities.

Each member of the family owned one or more dogs, trained to hunt its own specialty. Some of the beautiful longhaired setters were trained to hunt wild turkeys, others were taught the proper tactics for bird hunting - how to flush, point, and retrieve. Names of some of the dogs in this family come to mind: Jack, Logan, Ring, Spot, Plunks, Rover, and others.

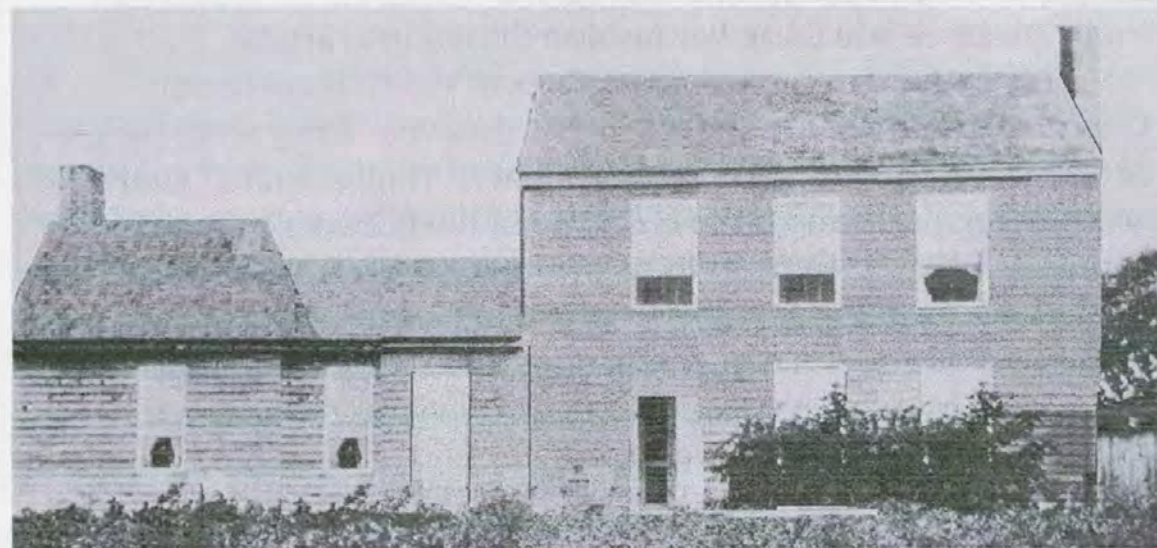
My grandfather, Samuel Hogg served as a private in the Confederate Army throughout the Civil War. He died February 10, 1908 and was buried in the Grafton Baptist Church cemetery.

My Grandmother, Maria Jane Lindsay Hogg survived him nineteen years. She continued to live at the old home with one of her sons, her cheerful, sunny disposition helping to carry her through her widowhood. She died March 7, 1929 and was buried beside her husband in the Grafton Baptist Church cemetery at Hornsbyville, Va.

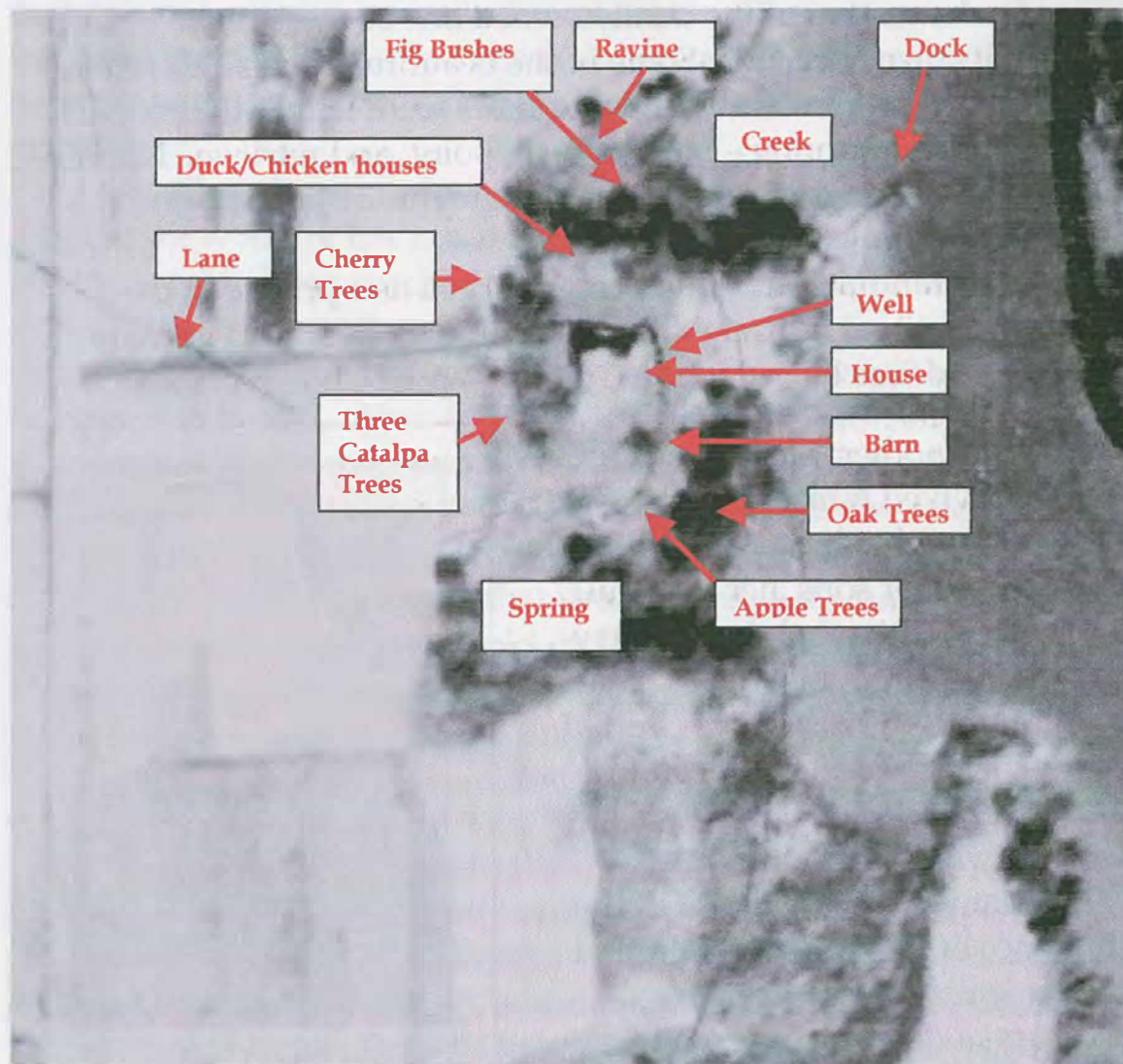
Many, many persons felt the influence of this godly couple, and the remembrance of them is a pleasant and happy experience.



Maria Jane Lindsay Hogg



Samuel and Maria Hogg Homestead



Cousin Irene Crockett, As I Remember Her

By Elizabeth Ironmonger

Today I attended the funeral of Cousin Irene Hogg, and while I was seated in Zion Church and the service was going on, I remembered many things about my association with her through the years. I thought it would be good to write down some of those memories, and so, I take pen in hand.

She was Irene Crockett, daughter of Ethelbert and Sarah Jane Mills Crockett of Seaford (formerly Crab Neck) and the wife of my cousin Lewis Frederick Hogg, called by me "Cousin Fred". He lived on [Old] Wormley's Creek Road and my childhood home was next to his.

They were married January 18, 1899, in Zion Methodist Church, Crab Neck. It was the second wedding that I ever attended. After the ceremony at church, my father, mother, brother, little sister, and I, attended the reception in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crockett. I was seven and a quarter years old. I remember this as being a wonderful occasion. Guests were seated and standing in the parlor, moving about in the hall, and admiring the wedding gifts which were on display in the sitting room (the west room of the house). I was in the parlor part of the time with my Papa, and then I went into the other room to see the gifts, with my mother. Among the guests was Cousin Della Winder of Hampton who was a girl friend of Cousin Irene. Transportation in those days being more difficult than today, it had been several years since my mother had seen this Winder cousin of hers, and the meeting was a pleasure.

As we moved among the guests in the hall, the waiters were coming and going with trays of refreshments, which were wedding cake and wine as the custom was in those days. It seemed that each time a waiter appeared in the hall with her tray, the boys would take the glasses of wine, immediately emptying the tray so that the waiters must return to the serving room for more wine, but, before they could get into the parlor to serve the guests in that room, again the trays would be empty. Eventually, though, everyone was served. I was reminded of the conversation between my parents before we left home which was about the refreshments and about attitudes

regarding alcoholic beverages. My mother asked my father not to drink any of the wine at the reception because he must set a good example for "Eddie" my nine-year old brother. My father also would want to set a good example, and while these refreshments were in common usage in those days, guests were free to make their choice.

Since the new bride was "Cousin Fred's" wife, we were taught to call her "Cousin Irene". They lived next door to us in Cousin Fred's childhood home until the carpenters completed their new home, which was begun immediately. (This was on adjoining property.)

I remember with pleasure our visiting in their home on many Sunday nights. They would have spent the day in Crab Neck with her relatives, and attended services at Zion Church. There would be lots of news to tell us about people in that community and their activities and interests. One such event that Cousin Irene related one Sunday night was about the unhappiness and heartache of her "Cousin Sadie Jake" because her boy had gone hundreds of miles away to Montgomery, Alabama. It seemed employment was scarce for youngsters in the area, and the boy had no worthwhile work to do at home; he began to plan to join a buddy in Montgomery. He quietly wrote his friend who immediately sent him money to pay his traveling expenses. "Cousin Sadie-Jake's son mentioned at home that he wanted to go and his mother began to cry. Being a tenderhearted lad, he couldn't bear to witness her grief, so he quickly told her if she'd stop crying he wouldn't go away. She dried her eyes and relaxed, but the boy, filled with the spirit of adventure and the desire to earn more money, talked to his father in the little general store he ran, and then set out to "earn his fortune in the big outside world." After a short period of time "Cousin Sadie-Jake" received a letter from her son post-marked Montgomery, Alabama. He had arrived safely and found his 'pal', who got him a job immediately with the same construction company where he was employed and the two young men were rooming together. She was somewhat comforted by his letter which told her that he was sorry he had to tell her a 'fib' when he left home, but it seemed to him the best thing he could do because it hurt him to see her weep. That he had told his mother a "story" when he left home was the first thing I ever heard about my

Wes, for some years later I married this young man.

There were many, many times that I went to Crab Neck with Cousin Irene and Cousin Fred, sometimes to shop at Slaight's Dry Goods Store, sometimes to go to some church events.

Their first baby died in infancy, but two more little boys were born to them, Harry and Clifton. Harry was his father's "right-hand man", helping with the chores about the farmyard, especially taking care of "Kitty" the pretty brownish-black mare. Clifton helped his mother with household tasks, even running the sewing machine for her when she wasn't well and there were certain things that needed to be stitched.

When there was sickness in either home, being good neighbors, each helped the other. My mother had typhoid fever when I was eleven years old, and Cousin Irene was back and forth helping to wait on her. Then in my first year in college, Cousin Irene had a long tedious spell and my mother spent many hours helping to nurse her.

When I was a girl, it wasn't unusual to borrow from a neighbor a cup of sugar, or a piece of soap. It was always to Cousin Irene's home that one of us would run to borrow in such an emergency, and Harry would run over to our house for some needed item. Once he came to borrow the "tottin-toad" - Harry talked with a peculiar lisp when a little boy - and it took much guessing on my mother's part and much repetition on his part to finally determine that what he wanted was the "washing board". Another time he came for a "pee o' doap" which turned out to be a "piece of soap".

As I look back it seems that I lived next door to Cousin Irene a good part of a lifetime, but actually it was only about ten years in which I grew up and married and came to Seaford to live. In my weekly visits back home I'd usually see her and the family and often my mother and I would spend the afternoon with her.

When my Thelma was a month old it was to Cousin Irene's that Wes and I carried her first. Her two boys were growing up, Clifton being then about seven years old and in less than a year Lewis was born to Cousin Fred and Cousin Irene. I suppose the winsomeness of my baby girl helped to bring to focus their desire for a little girl, but a little boy, Lewis Ethelbert came to them instead of a little girl. Later another son was born, named Reginald Wilson Hogg. After a period

of time and the birth of the five sons, they had twin girls, both of them still born.

Over the years, changes have taken place. The four boys became men, married and had homes and families. My brother and sister also married, established homes, and had children. My father became an invalid and died in 1933. Cousin Fred died several years later. Time went by and Clifton died quite suddenly. Harry and his wife and mother lived together. They and my mother continued to be good neighbors until my mother became too feeble to live alone and came to live with me. We didn't see Cousin Irene in the home then as often formerly, but even then she came to my house to visit Mama and me.

She was a member of the Ladies' Bible Class of Zion, of which I was teacher. She attended regularly until ill health and weakness prevented her.

One of my recollections of a pleasant association with Cousin Irene was our attendance together at the monthly WCTU meetings and the quarterly conventions. Whenever she was physically able to attend we would go for Pearl Morse and stop at Cousin Irene's home to include her in our carload, with Virginia Davis and Madeline Mills driving. It was a pleasure to visit together and tell each other the news as we drove to and from those meetings, and we shared a common interest in the promotion of the temperance work.

In the late fall of 1962 Wes and I went to her home to visit her. She was confined to her bed but quite cheerful although her health was declining. We went to see her again on February 10, 1963 and were made aware then, that she was much feebler than we had realized.

I never saw her again. Her last days were peaceful. She was a good woman, a kind neighbor, and a Christian friend. Her home going leaves another vacancy here and forms another tie in the Great Beyond. All of my memories of her are happy and inspiring. "To know her was to love her."

Excerpts from A Little Sketch about Georgie and Willie Hornsby
By Elizabeth Ironmonger

I talked a few moments today with Marion about her late father and mother. Marion [Hornsby's] parents were Georgie and Willie, or Georgia Anna White and John William Hornsby.

I was not reared in Crab Neck (Seaford) so I was not associated with them as much as the young people in that community. However, Tampico or Hornsbyville near Wormley's Creek, my childhood home, was only three miles away.

My very first acquaintance with Willie took place when I was around nine years old and he was about twelve. His uncle, Leroy A. Hornsby a Crab Neck native, owned and operated a General Merchandise Store at the crossroads [Hornsbyville and Wolf Trap Roads] that later became Hornsbyville. Willie spent a little while with his uncle's family helping with odd jobs about the store during the evenings and Saturdays, and attended our one-room schoolhouse, which was being taught that year by Mr. Scott Hogg in the Baptist Church building. Willie was there only a few weeks and I remember his laughing, sunny smile and his slightly turned up nose. He played ball with the boys at recess and was one of "our gang" as long as he stayed there with his uncle's family.

When did I first meet Georgie? I cannot entirely pinpoint the time. As I look back I am reminded of our family often attending services at Zion Methodist Church, when those services did not conflict with those at my own church, the Grafton Baptist Church at Hornsbyville.

Time moved on and we grew from childhood into our late teens, and some of us into the early twenties. Georgie was in Baltimore studying millinery, while I was in Richmond at Woman's College (forerunner of Westhampton).

The summer of 1907 arrived about the time when country baseball became very popular. Each community organized its own baseball team. There was one or more quite proficient ball teams in Seaford; Hornsbyville also had its team and the ball diamond was laid off in the big pasture by the Hogg family graveyard section, adjoining my father's farmyard.

I remember a matched game played in this setting by the Hornsbyville boys and one of the Crab Neck (Seaford) teams. Willie Hornsby was on one of the playing groups; and there were spectators for the game. The boys placed my father's spring wagon in the shade of the barn, which was close by the ball field and I sat in the wagon and kept score. When the game was over, the boys came into our yard for a drink of clear, cool water from our highly prized deep well.

Three or four boys came in with me, Willie being one of them. Since he was full of music and I was "fresh" from college where I had finished a couple years of music study, it was the natural thing for all of us to drift into the parlor, where I played and we all sang, "In the shade of the Old Apple Tree"; "Red Wing"; and "Blue Bell".

On July 4, 1907, by way of celebrating the patriotic holiday, there was an excursion run by two boats off Back Creek - the "Ella Mills" and the "Helen Young" up to West Point, Virginia. An amusement park was in full swing there, by the riverside, with merry-go-round and other amusement features. Part of the pleasure of the trip was in taking part in the race between the two boats. They made a beautiful picture as they sped up the York River.

After a day of fun and relaxation the crowd was rounded up by 9:00 p.m., we boarded the two boats, the motors were started, and away we came down the river in the moonlight, all of us singing as we came. We made the run back to Back Creek soon after midnight.

Wes and I were married March 10, 1909, and I came to Seaford to make my home. Georgie and Willie were married at Zion Methodist Church December 25, 1913.

An Old 1890 Kitchen By Elizabeth Ironmonger

I have been asked to write down a description of an old kitchen of the period 1890 - 1900.

The kitchen I have in mind was built in 1889 and furnished according to the customs of that time. It was situated about twelve feet from the "Big House" and was connected to the main house by a wide plank that rested on a short cypress log at each end of the plank. Those two logs provided doorsteps, one going into the "Big House" and the other going into the kitchen.

The room built for the kitchen was about 12 by 14 feet and, when it was first built, the floor was made of wide boards. Later the old floor was covered with three-inch tongue and groove flooring.

The chimney flue went up at the west end of the kitchen. There were two windows in the room. Each window had eight small panes of glass.

The kitchen floor was kept bright and clean by being scrubbed weekly with water, soap, and a little lye, using a big corn-shuck sprinkled with sand with which to do the scrubbing. A small section of the floor was scrubbed in this way; then it was rinsed off with clear water and a cloth, and wiped dry. Then the next section of the floor was treated in the same manner, until the whole floor was nicely scrubbed and rinsed. When it dried it was very clean and bright.

The cast iron stove at the west end of the room was in line with the door; the stove pipe was connected to the flue and there was a damper at the back part of the stove, to keep the blaze from going up into the chimney. The stove had four round tops or lids and three crosspieces. One built the fire in the grate and opened the stove-hearth for draft. With the opening and closing of the hearth and the raising and lowering of the damper, one controlled the fire in the stove.

There was a wood-box in the corner of the room, next to the stove, in which firewood was kept to run the fire within the stove.

Handmade curtains at the two windows covered the upper window sashes. They were fastened on strong cord and could be slipped back and forth. They were usually made of red-checked

gingham. Sometimes flowered cretonne was used for the curtains. There was a small dining table with its oilcloth cover. This was usually in some geometric pattern with bright colors matching the curtains. (This table was made of cheery wood.)

There were four kitchen chairs and a high chair for the baby in this kitchen. They were set about the room against the wall until mealtime when they were placed at the two ends and one side of the table.

There was a smaller table just inside the door to accommodate the water bucket, washbasin, and soap dish. A homemade towel hung nearby. It was often made from a pea-bag. Above the tin washbasin a small mirror was hung on the wall and a comb-case was attached next to the mirror. The water bucket was of cedar with wire hoops and the water dipper was made from a cocoanut shell. One had to know how to make the cocoanut shell dipper with its wooden handle.

Behind the door, back in the northeast corner of the room, the flour barrel stayed. The big round sifter of wood and wire was kept in the flour barrel. Next to the barrel of flour a lard tin of meal was kept. There was a shelf attached to the wall, above the flour barrel. Salt, sugar, yeast powder, soda, and coffee, in their containers sat on this shelf. The broom stood up behind the door after the floor was swept.

There was a set of deer antlers fastened up high on the wall in the southeast end of the kitchen. My father had killed the deer on one of his hunting trips and the antlers made a rack on which to hang hats when the family gathered for a meal or when day was done.

An important item of furnishing for this kitchen was a pie safe with its pierced tin panels. It had three shelves on which the china, glassware, and crystal were arranged. The knives, forks, and spoons, butter paddle, rolling pin, and nutmeg grater were kept in the drawer of the pie safe. A kerosene lamp sat on the top of the safe; a pitcher and glasses and possibly a small pickle dish completed the arrangement on top of the safe.

Red kerosene oil was used in the glass lamp instead of clear oil, as its ruby red color added beauty to the lamp. In this household the lamps were always cleaned and filled with oil every day so there was

no vacant place in the oil section to spoil the symmetry of the lamp. The lamp globes were washed and shined to perfection daily, and thus the lamps were attractive as well as useful.

A coffee grinder was attached to the wall above the wood-box. One stood by the box and ground the coffee beans with which to make the coffee. The coffee beans were purchased green and were parched in a pan on top of the stove. The housewife stood by the stove, with a fork in hand, and stirred the coffee beans continually to keep them from burning while this parching chore was in progress.

The cast iron teakettle and the coffee pot of tin or agate sat on the back part of the stove. Other cooking utensils were hung on nails driven in the wall behind the stove. They were mostly of cast iron. There was a long iron frying pan, a small skillet, one or two round spiders, a round gridiron, several big tin cooking spoons and forks, and a cocoanut grater of tin. A cast iron "dinner pot", used for boiling food, was stored under the safe when not in use.

A large stone crock or jar with hand carved top and dasher made the churn in which the cream was churned into butter. The milk strainer-bucket used in milking the cow was usually of tin. It had a lip on one side of the bucket into which a small wire strainer had been made. The milk was poured from the bucket through this strainer into bowls and set aside in the safe.

A wooden bread tray was kept on top of the flour barrel, topside turned down.

This kitchen also had among its furnishings an ironing board and three or four flat irons. They usually rested on an iron shelf attached to the back of the stove when not in use.

When a ham was cooked in the big cast iron ham-boiler, the utensil covered half of the stovetop. Two lids of the stove and one of the cross pieces would be removed, thus allowing the boiler to be right next to the fire. Delicious hams were boiled in this way. After boiling, the ham was skinned and decorated with cloves, pepper and sugar, and placed in the stove oven to glaze.

The oven of the small wood stove produced many other delicacies - pies, cakes, biscuits, spoon bread, and such things. The stove oven had a slide or open shelf, thus making two elevations for baking food.

In this family the table was usually set for five persons. The china dishes were taken from the pie-safe and arranged for five places. Cutlery was taken from the safe drawer. A sugar dish, cream pitcher, butter dish, pepper caster, vinegar cruet, saltcellar, and sometimes the molasses jar were arranged in the middle of the table. The coffee pot and teapot remained on the side of the stove and the housewife served coffee or tea from these receptacles. The children had milk in their mugs. Platters and bowls of food were arranged about the table, the chairs were placed to the table, and then family assembled for its meal.

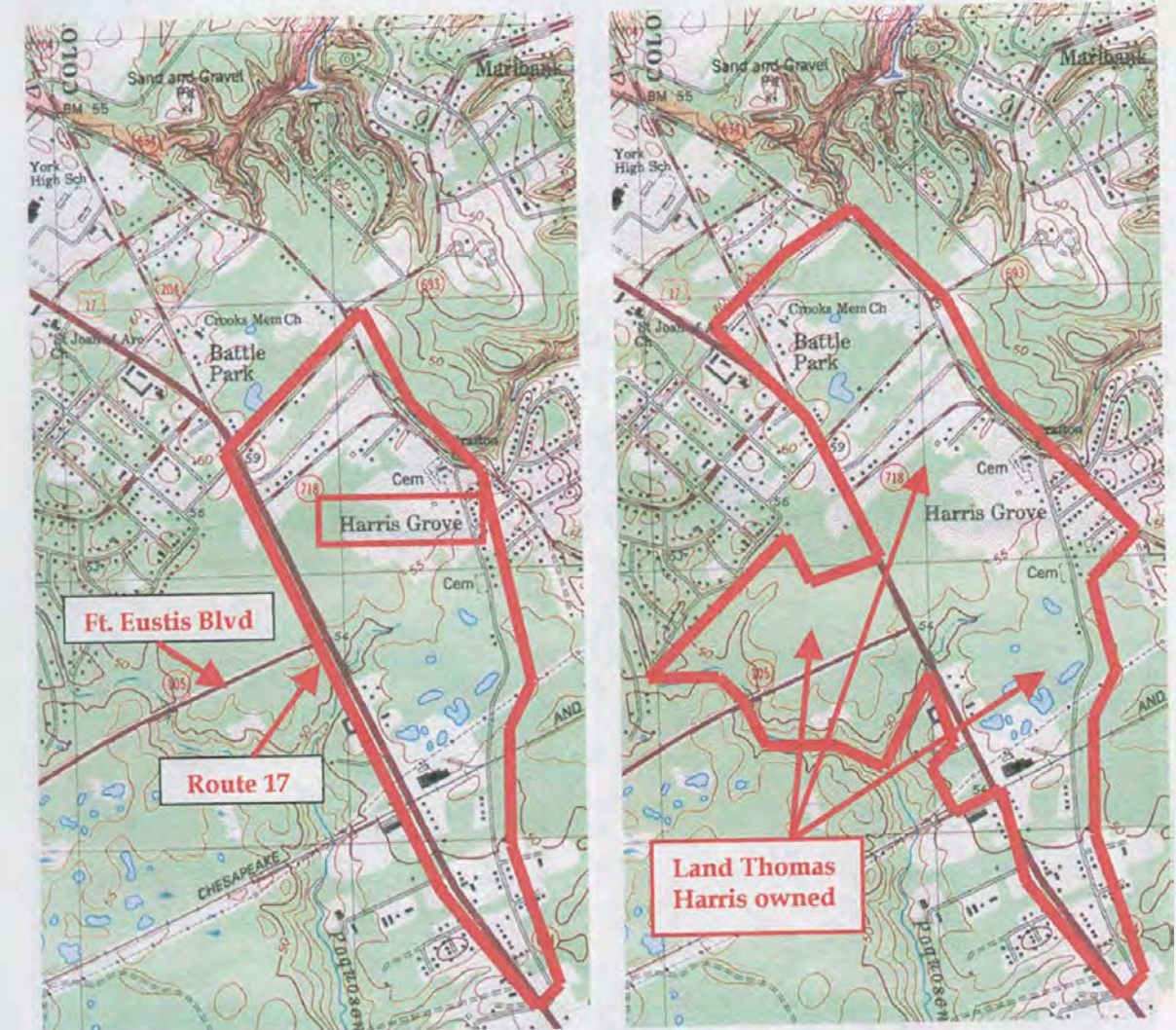
On Sunday, or when company came, the meal served in the kitchen was placed on a linen cloth, sometimes of red-checked damask to match the curtains, but often a white linen cloth.

In 1901 the plank between the two houses was removed and the space between was filled in with a room 12 by 12. This became the dining room of the home.

In 1910 the old kitchen was torn down and a two-room section 28 by 30 feet was added at the south end of the "Big House". One of these rooms became the new kitchen, with up-to-date conveniences.

Harris Grove

The area under discussion is shown below in maps, which are from a portion of a 1983 geological survey map. A distinction must be made between the Harris Grove locality (left) and the land that was owned by a man named Thomas Harris (right). As the maps indicate, a large parcel of his land became known as Harris Grove.



Thomas S. Harris was born in 1870 in Crab Neck (Seaford) and married Mary Sclator Sheild in 1897. Reverend Crooks, a confederate minister, performed the ceremony. The Crooks Memorial Methodist Church bears his name.

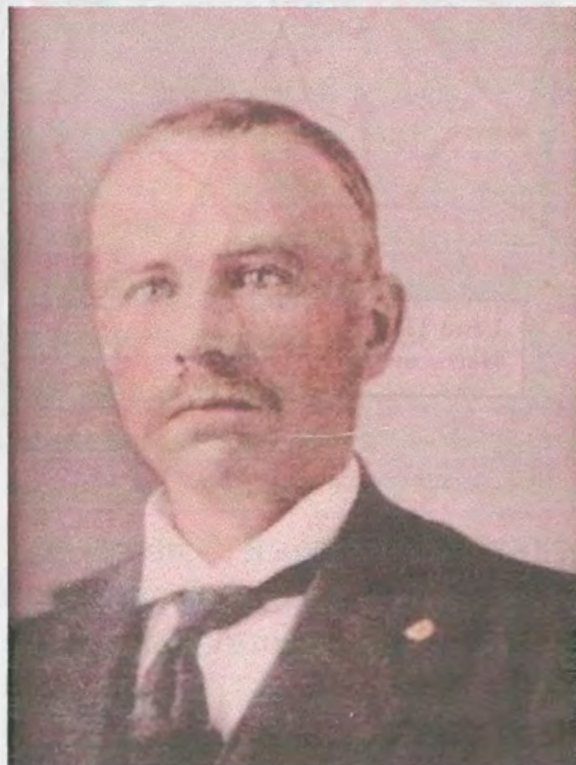
Thomas graduated from the University of Virginia Law School at the same time twin daughters were born in 1904. He read the law and attended summer courses at the law school. He was a self-made man. Although Thomas was not particularly interested in tracing his lineage, apparently he did reveal that his ancestors came to this country as indentured servants. He seemed more concerned about the future and welfare of his progeny than the past.

Mary (Sheild) Harris was the daughter of Bolivar Sheild whose family was related to the Howards of Virginia. Bolivar Sheild was York County Clerk during the Civil War and is credited with saving the county records (see Cockletown Corridor).

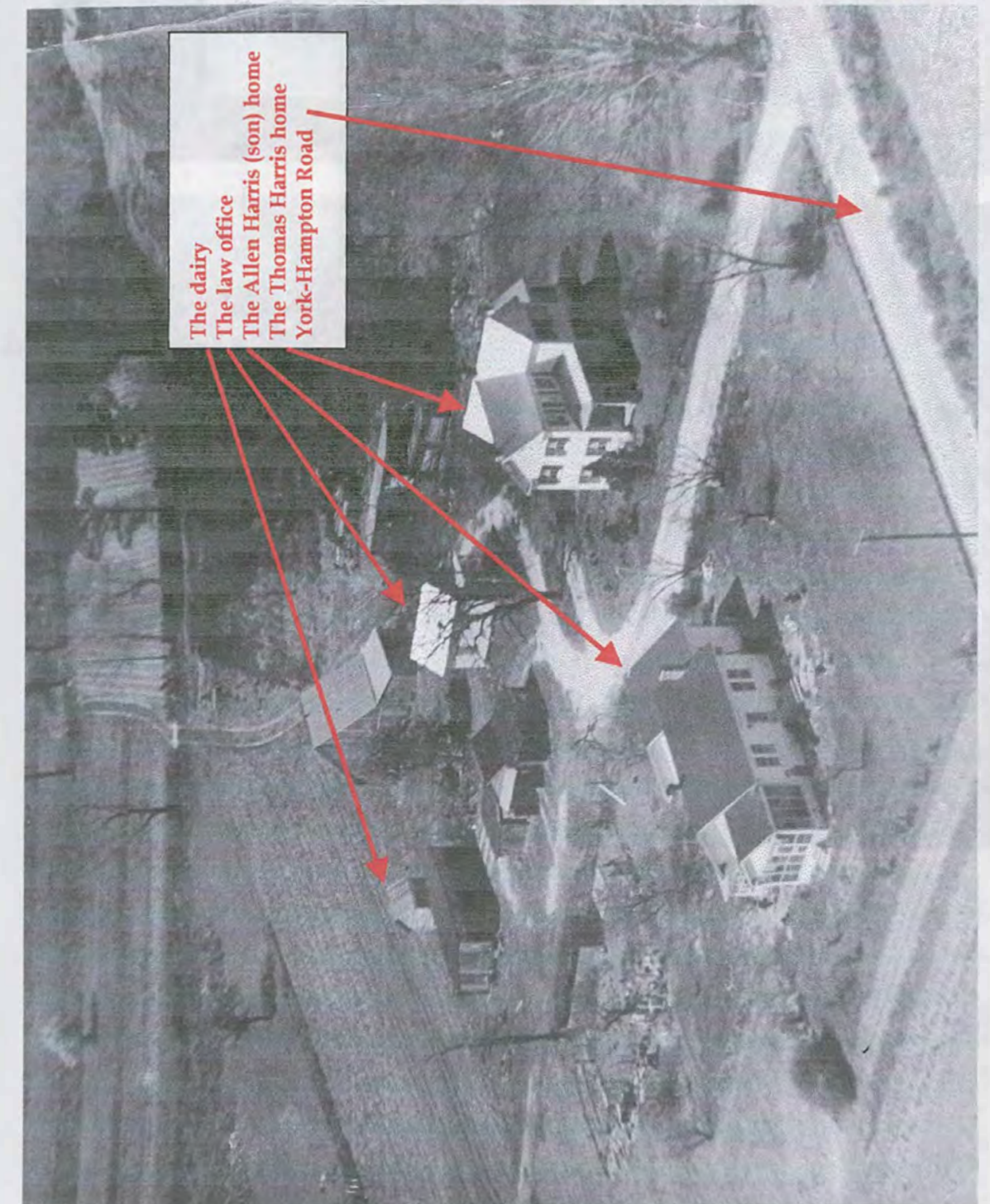
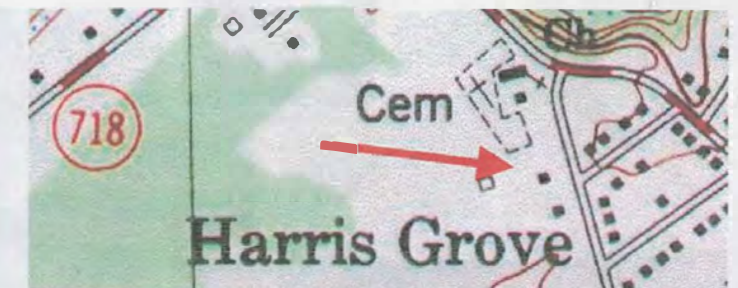
Thomas and Mary had a total of eight children.

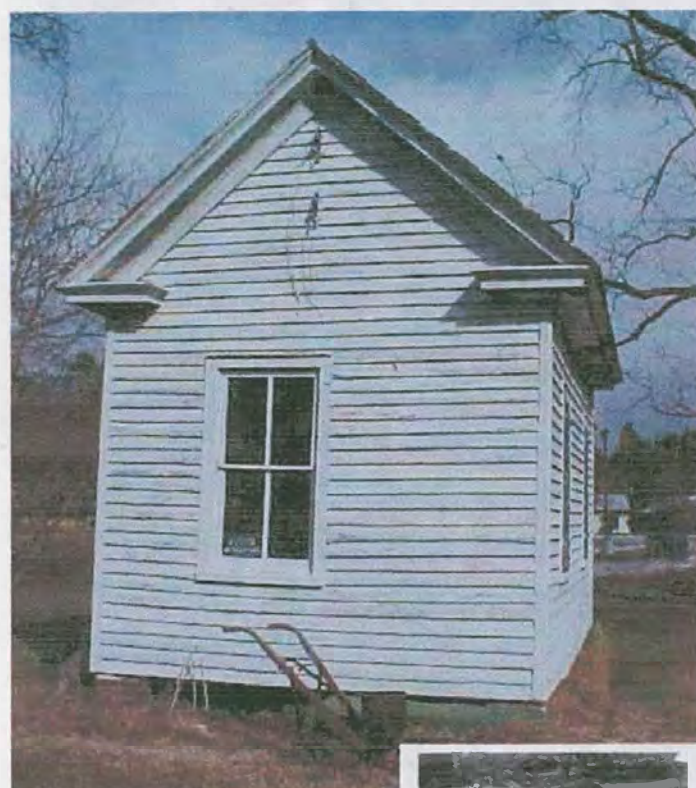
In 1905 Thomas bought several acres of land close to the center of activity at the crossroads of Hornsbyville and York-Hampton Highway. On this land he built the family home and it remained until the 1990s when Grafton Baptist Church bought the property and tore down the house. In addition to their house and outbuildings, the Harris law office was also located on the property. He worked hard as a lawyer and was very busy before he died at an early age of 52 in 1922.

Pictures of Thomas and Mary Harris are shown below.

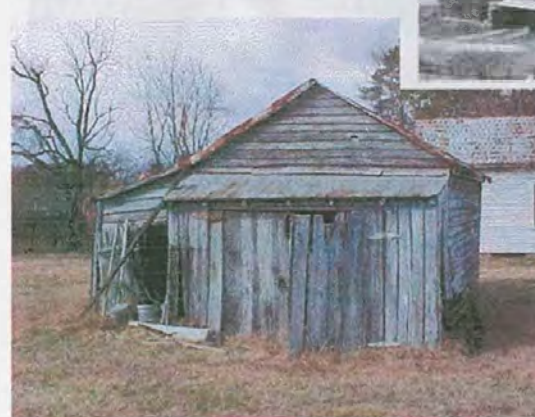


The Harris Home and Law Office Building
Shown below, an aerial photo, ca. 1945; to the right (red Arrow), the location.



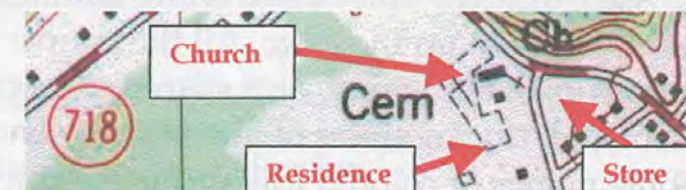


law office
and shed:
2002 and
ca. 1945
contrasted



Harris Enterprises

The Harris family owned a general store, which housed a post office, across the road from their residence.



For the reason that the post office had to have a location name, the Harris Grove Post Office came to life. To round out the center of activity at this crossroads, there was the Harris Grove Baptist Church.

Thomas Harris was engaged in a lot of business ventures as can be seen by his logo. In addition to this, he owned fruit trees, farmed, and sold oysters and clams. Primarily, he bought land for himself. The size, location and contiguousness of his farm attest to his savvy in purchasing real estate.

T. S. HARRIS & Co.

Harris Grove, VA.

We Sell Fire Insurance.
We Sell Life Insurance.
We Buy and Sell Real Estate.
We Make Loans, Long or Short.
We Rent Farms for our Clients.
We Rent Farms to our Clients.
We are Prompt.
We are Located at Harris Grove, VA.
We are Hustlers
We Want Your Patronage.

He bought land all over York and James City Counties and was instrumental in founding the Peninsula Trust Company. He would visit the Post Office and Court House and search the records to find properties on which taxes were delinquent, and buy the land at about one dollar an acre. He was one of the first to own an automobile on the peninsula, and was so enamored with it that he had one of his sons, in the seventh grade at the time, to chauffeur him around.

To the right is shown a picture of his auto license tag. Note the date of 1912.



The hub of activity in Harris Grove was centered around the crossroads area. About five white families and several colored families made up the area. All the people were close, treated as members of the family, and shared. The colored folk worked on the farm and, during times of illness or absence, attended to the children. Some names of colored folk include: Aunt Mandie, Anna, Parker, Lavania, and Brooks.

The General Store and Post Office

Thomas Harris built his own Victorian residence and the adjoining law office. In time, the Goffigan two-story store building served as a storage facility until it was razed. Apparently the Thomas Harris small country store flourished.

The Harris family and children operated the general store. After Thomas' death, one son and his wife, Sheildie and Nettie Harris, operated the store and post office, and their living quarters were in the back of the store. As can be seen from the map above, the store was located between Horsbyville and Old York-Hampton Roads inside the "V". As one entered from the back of the building, on the right was a large kitchen, and to the left a large colonnade (separated the kitchen from the main house) that connected a large hall with stairs that led to three bedrooms and a balcony outside. Downstairs there were two rooms. The hall was like a "shotgun" (a direct shot from front-to-back) that led to the store.

In 1902 Leroy Hornsby was appointed postmaster and operation of the Tampico Post Office shifted down the road to the L.A. Hornsby Store. Thomas Harris contacted the national headquarters for postal services and a new Harris Grove Post Office opened within a few weeks. In the late 1920s/early 1930s Everette and Olive Gray owned a general store on York-Hampton Highway diagonally across from the entrance to Marlbank Farms, and the Harris Grove Post Office shifted operation to Mrs. Gray. See the section on Wormley Creek Plantation for the origin of the name "Tampico".

Lelia Harrod also owned a general store on Hornsbyville Road at the corner of Old Wormley Creek Road, but it was open only at certain times.

Grafton Baptist Church alias Harris Grove Baptist Church

A Short History of the Churches

By Nancy Harris Williams

A chronicle of the Grafton Baptist Church reveals a humble beginning more than a century ago by notable periods of progress from that time until the present. This record began in 1860 when Major Thomas Griffin, a white man, gave two acres on which a building of worship was to be erected and used jointly by white and African-American people of the Baptist faith.

A small slab church was built in which preaching services were held alternately by the two races for a few years. After some dissatisfaction arose between the two groups, the white members sold their interest to the African-American people and purchased a plot of land in Tampico (now Hornsbyville) and erected a building called Bassett's Chapel. Later, the name was changed to Grafton Baptist Church. This building, now the Hornsbyville Baptist Mission, is still used by whites as a place of worship.

After the two races dissolved partnership, the African-American people continued to worship in the slab church. The ambitious members were not satisfied with this structure, so the building was torn down in 1889. The members raised enough money to build a straight-up-and-down-board structure.

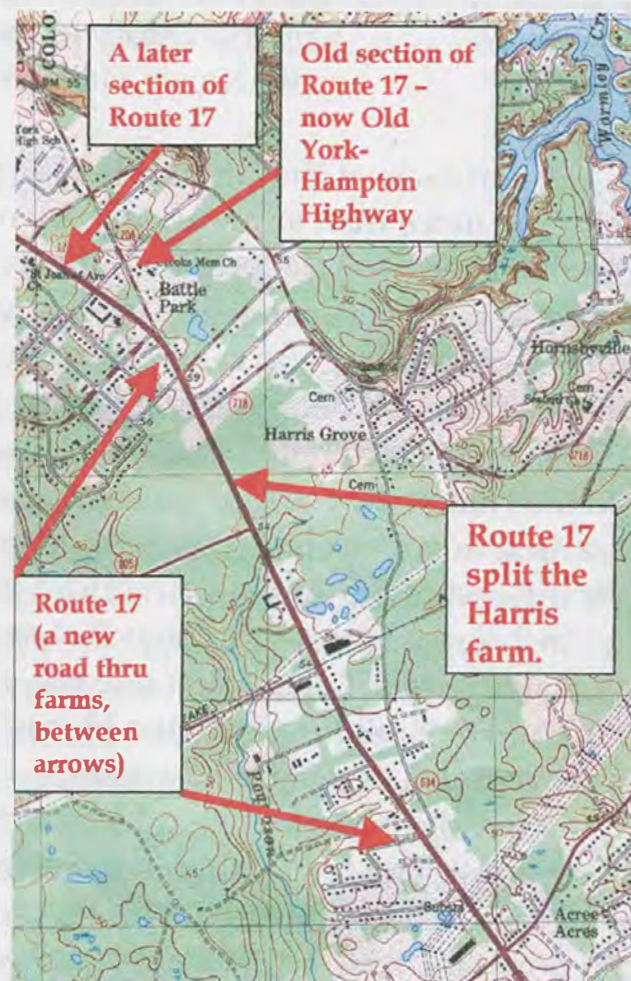
A major set back occurred in 1907. The church burned to the ground. During this interim period, service was held in Diggs Hall.

The present-day Grafton Baptist Church has been and is an important part of the area. The church was replaced by a new modern building; the old one was beautiful with elegant windows. In the 1950s on Sunday mornings the people could be seen walking to the church, a literal fashion parade, with services lasting all day and sometimes into the night. Nearby residents could hear the singing; it must have been a joyful time because on Mondays people would talk

about the people who got happy and how they acted in church. It is said that people were buried three-deep in the cemetery when white people were part of the membership.

The Harris Farm

The main farm was one large area. The main road from Hampton and Newport News was Route 17, previously York-Hampton Highway. Old Route 17 was what is today known as Old York-Hampton Highway. When the state of Virginia arranged to build a new Route 17, the course of the road went through the main farm area, i.e., the Harris farmland was on each side of Route 17 from approximately the railroad tracks to Harrod Road. Thomas Harris, a lawyer himself, hired a lawyer to try to prevent the state from constructing the road through his land. He later learned that the lawyer he hired also worked for the state.



Areas at Ft. Eustis Boulevard, east of the Poquoson River stream and west of Route 17, belonged to the Harris Farm and today contain: McDonald's, Exxon, Burnt Bridge and Woods Crossing. See the map on the first page of this section. Across Route 17 is the shopping center and, further east, Settlers Landing; this land was also part of the Harris Farm.

Large quantities of vegetables were raised on the farm and sold in many areas. Some were hauled by horse and wagon to the Yorktown dock to be shipped to Baltimore by the Baltimore steamer that docked there. Some could recall that the dock was completely

covered with vegetables for shipment. A favorite pastime of the children was to go to Yorktown to watch the steamer come in. Thomas often traveled to Baltimore to purchase supplies and furniture. One time the Revenuers were waiting for him at Yorktown when he got off the steamer. As the story goes, the Revenue men did not find anything but, then again, no one knew what they were trying to find. Vegetables were also hauled into Newport News to sell. Along with vegetables they raised pigs, which was unbearable during the hot season. During the off-season from farming, the sons of Thomas worked for the highway department, such as cutting grass along the highways using a team of horses. On one occasion they had cut grass along Route 17 to the Newport News line where one of the horses died.

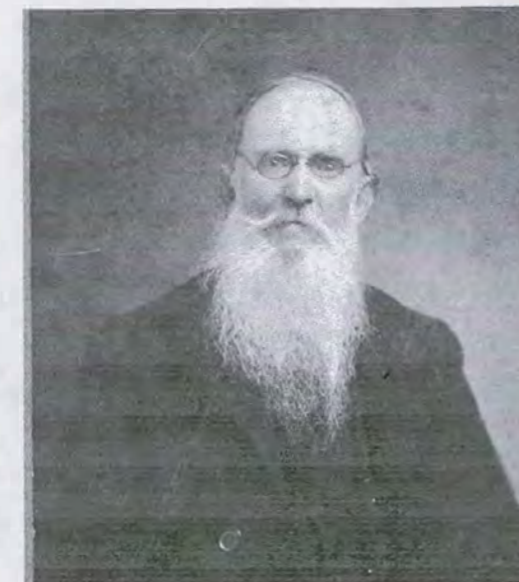
The second generation of the Harris family sold most of the farm to a Mr. Parish. Today, no one with the name of Harris (of the Thomas Harris line) lives in Harris Grove.

Harris Grove Estates

There was a farm with a big house (perhaps originally part of Hogg estate) on the east side of Hornsbyville Road between Old Wormley Creek Road and the crossroads. Bolivar Sheilds owned the farm at one point. The house was one of the oldest and had been built in sections over the years. It had a kitchen with an enclosed hall that would have been a collonade. Stairs led to two bedrooms with fireplaces. Later, another large section was added to the main house.

A Thomas Harris son and his wife bought the farm who later sold it; it finally became a development known as Harris Grove Estates.

Road names within the development include Bolivar Drive and Sheild Lane. The County Clerk, Mr. Boliver Shield carefully removed the York County record books from the Clerk's Office in Yorktown during the Civil War and made sure they were preserved until after the war.



Family and Photos

Thomas S. Harris – Mary (Molly) Sheild

Thomas Sheild (Sheildie) – Nettie

Roland

Thomas

Lorraine

William Riggins (remained unmarried)

Allen Copeland – Helen Schell

Nancy Schell – Press Williams
Allen C., Jr.

Minnie Hogge

James

Donald

Ray

Annie Holland

Mary Schell

Eugenia (remained unmarried)

Lucile Harrison

Shown here an abbreviated Harris lineage chart (those who live or lived on Thomas Harris land).



Right:
Allen and
Helen
Harris on
the
Yorktown
Beach, ca.
1930.

MRS. HARRIS DIES AT 75

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Sheild Harris, 75, of Harris Grove, widow of Thomas Harris, daughter of the late Anne Howard and Bolivar Sheild, who died Friday, will be held at the Grafton Christian church. The Rev. Jack W. Cunningham will conduct the services at 4 p. m. today. Interment will be in Grafton cemetery.

Survivors are three sons, T. Sheild Harris, William R. Harris, Allen C. Harris, all of Harris Grove; four

daughters, Mrs. J. R. Holland, Morriston; Mrs. A. M. Schell, Hilton Village; Mrs. T. Hogge Sr., Harris Grove; Miss Eugenia Harris, Newport News. Twelve grandchildren, Alvin M. Schell Jr., USNR; J. R. Hogge Jr., USNR; Donald Hogge, Ronald Harris, USNR; Thomas J. Harris Jr., USN; William T. Holland, USMM; Harris Holland, USA; Allen C. Harris Jr., Mrs. Stanley W. White, Mrs. Nancy Schell Harris, Miss Richie Harrison, Miss Norma Harrison and one great-granddaughter.

Active pallbearers: Nolan S. Sheild, Walker W. Whitehead, William W. Hogge, William L. Hudson, S. Minson Cooke, Conway H. Sheild.

Honorary pallbearers: E. D. Gray,

O. G. Fletcher, A. J. Renforth Jr., Lt. Comdr. Nelson Smith, Floyd Holloway, T. P. Riggins, J. W. Hornsby, J. A. Cooper, Walter Amory, Henderson Wainwright, R. E. White, J. W. Dawson, B. W. White, Harry Hogge, J. A. Sheild, J. S. Hogge, W. L. Nottingham, J. T. Love, Clarence Moore, Howard Schell, Dr. L. O. Powell, Thomas DeAlba Sr., and other friends of the family.

Shown below are some snap shots taken during the early 1900s.



Top Left: William Riggins Harris. He continued living in the old Harris home and remained unmarried.

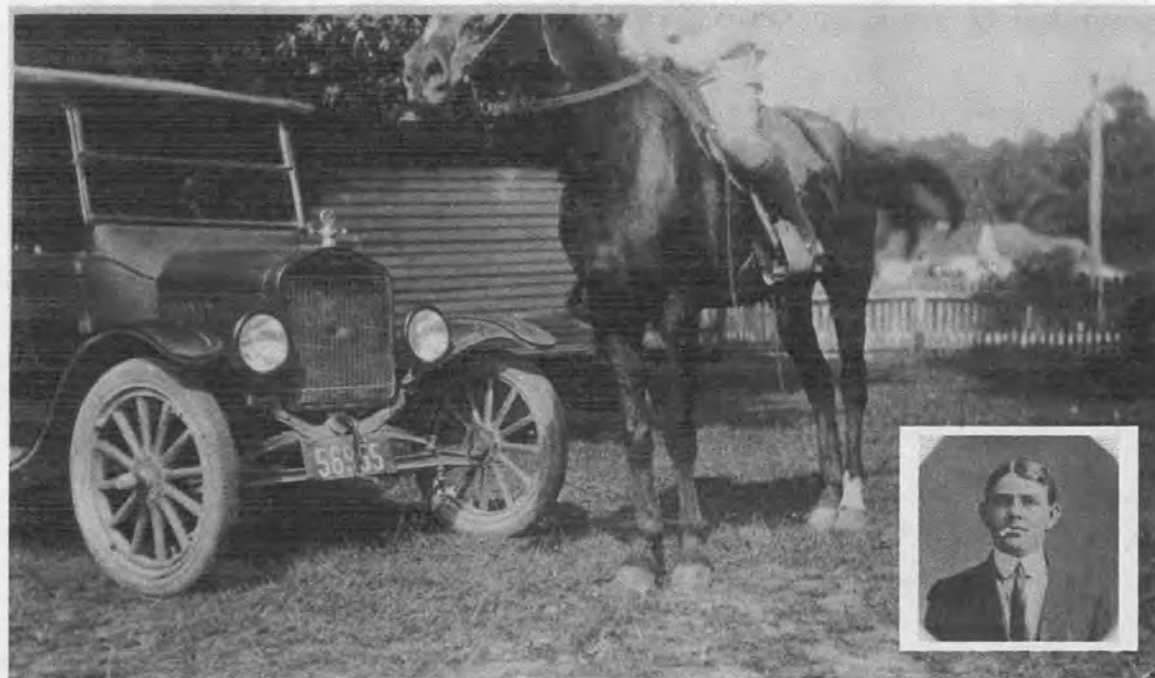
Bottom Left: Mary Harris in front of the old home.

Top Right: Jimmie and Minnie Hogge

Mid. Right: Minnie and dog Doodles

Bottom Right: William and his dogs

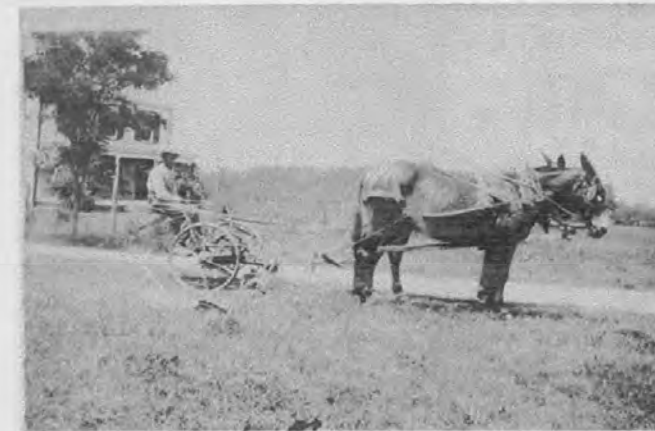




Above: William Harris (corner) on his horse and by his car, vintage 1920s. Left: Allen Harris. Below: Annie Holland and Mary Harris. Bottom Left: Harris Grove Store. Bottom Right: Mary Schell on store steps.



Percy and Ella Schell, parents of Helen (Schell) Harris. Left: the home place, northwest of the intersection of Cook and York-Hampton Roads. Percy, mule and wagon ca. 1925.



The Park Service took their land and replaced it with land along Harpersville Road in the vicinity of Huber Road. See page 245. Below: A certificate presented by Herbert Hoover to Thomas Harris for service during World War I.



Road Names associated with the Harris Family

Allen Harris Drive – Harris Lane – Copeland Lane – Harris Grove Lane (Edgehill)

Some History of Marlbank Farms

As indicated by his logo, Thomas Harris advertised that:

“We Rent Farms for our Clients”.
“We Rent Farms to our Clients”.

This was true of Marlbank Farms.

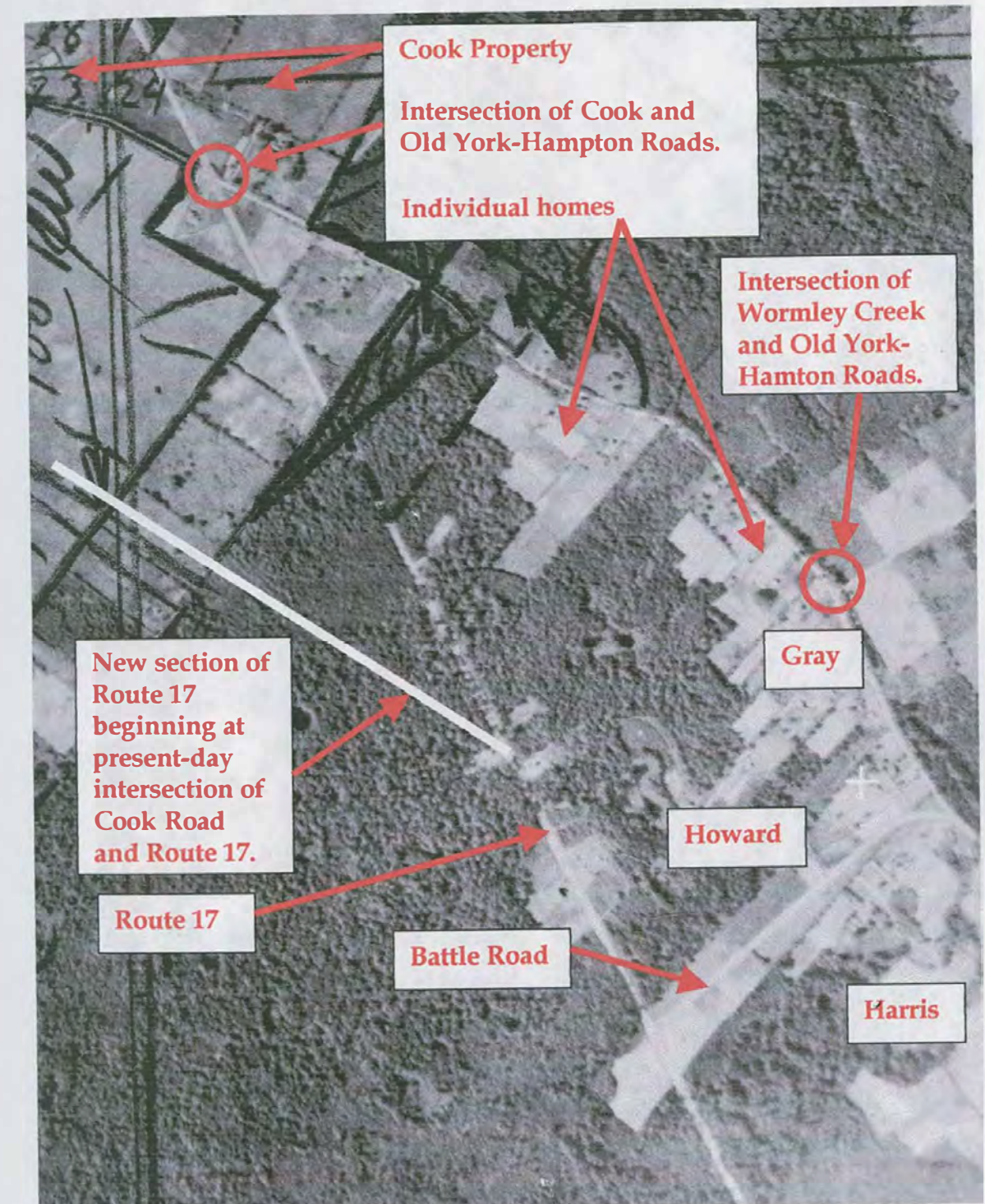
The Harris family rented all of Marlbank Farms, beginning with Thomas who rented it for many years before he died in 1922. The Harris family called the farm “Solos”. It belonged to two elderly ladies whose home was in New York. The Harris family had the contract to rent the farm, which rented for \$75.00 a year initially, and also farmed some of the land themselves; some of the land had not been cleared. In addition to using the land for a source of vegetables and Christmas trees, the family also used the land for grazing cattle and horses, and also used the water for harvesting oysters and clams. Over time the “big” plantation house deteriorated so badly that the sons of Thomas could not store hay in the building.

During the last part of World War II, the Government setup a secret project at the Solos and sent several men to work within the confines of the farm area. These men lived at the old Harris house where the Harris family provided room and board. Initially, the locals did not know aspects of the secret project, and became even more excited when an F.B.I agent and his wife came to live at the Harris house. Later, the locals found out that these scientists were working on radar devices.

When Mr. O’Hara bought Solos, which was for a small price, it came as a surprise to the Harris family, who would have bought it given the opportunity. O’Hara changed the name to Marlbank because of the marl.

Aerial Photos

Shown below is a 1937 aerial photo of the Harris estate, from Battle Road to the intersection of Cook and Old-Hampton Roads, after Route 17 had split the farmland. The new section of Route 17 had not yet been constructed.



A 1999 Aerial Photo of
the Harris Farm area

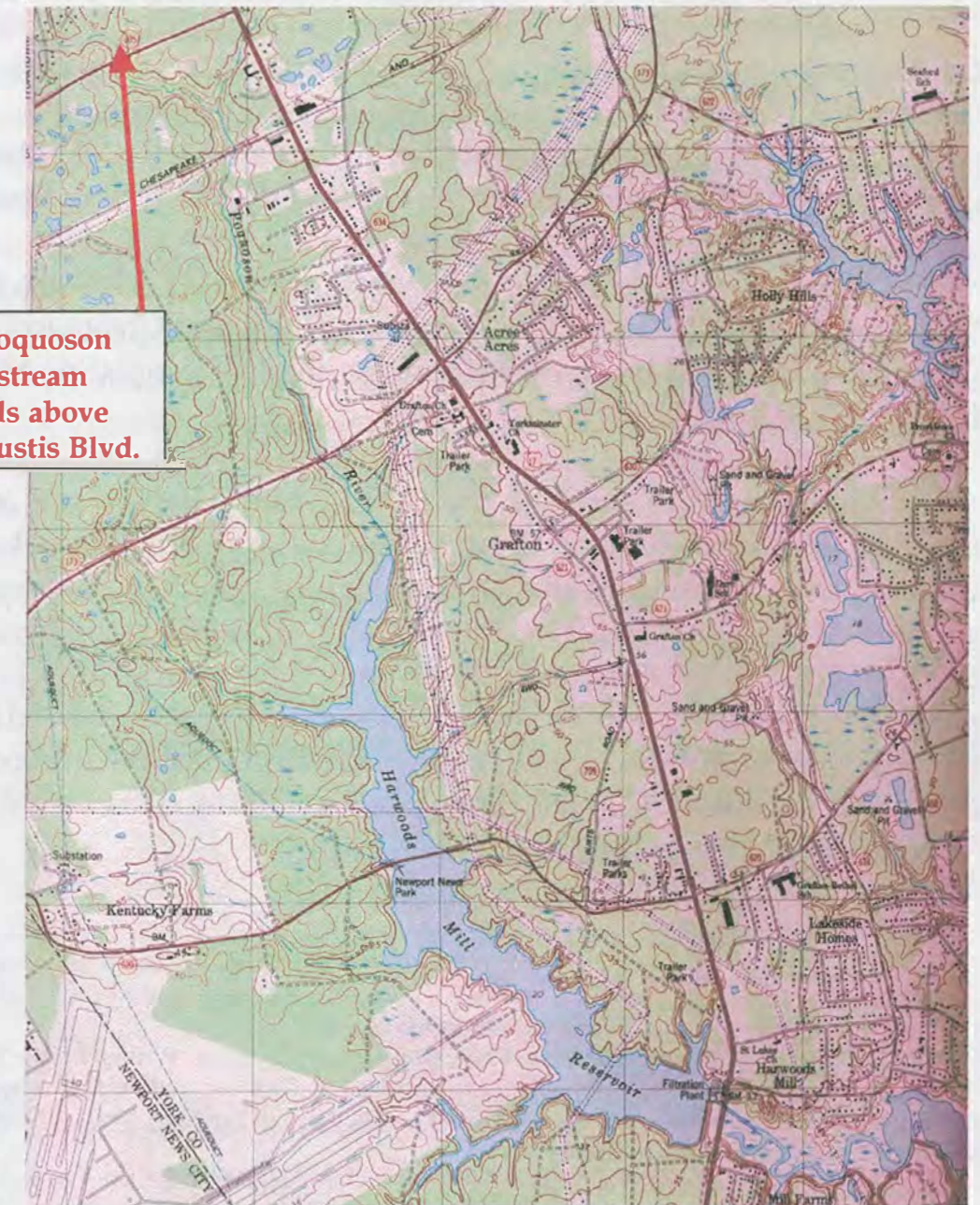


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Cockletown Corridor

The areas making up the Cockletown (Grafton) Corridor includes the area from Fort Eustis Boulevard on the north, Harwoods Mill Reservoir on the south, Newport News (Warwick Co.) city line on the west, and about a mile east of George Washington Memorial Highway - Route 17 - on the east.

The Poquoson
River stream
extends above
Fort Eustis Blvd.



Department of the Interior Geological Survey Map

Some Early History of Cockletown

As previously discussed, several maps developed (ca. 1862) during the U.S. Civil War by command of Gen. McClellan provide information on early roads, landowners, and landmarks. Portions of four maps are presented here.¹ Although details differ on each of these maps, they do provide geographical information relevant to the Cockletown Corridor history of the time period.

In addition to the McClellan Maps, use is made of the 1983 Geological Survey Map and the "Map of Certain Lands in York County VA. Essential to Harwoods Mill Water Development" produced by Old Dominion Land Company dated 1919. All these maps provide information about the Grafton (Cockletown) area.

Information on early Cockletown is meager. It is known that "Much of Grafton between the Poquoson River and Chisman Creek (farm) was inherited by Daniel Moore, nephew of Augustine Moore in 1737."²

Ralph Meredith says, "In the 1700s, Grafton Baptist was across the road from our Christian Church. We will probably never know for sure, but it is believed that Grafton Baptist got its name from a prominent traveling preacher, John Leland, who first came here in the late 1700s. It is presumed that he named the church after his place of birth, which was Grafton, Massachusetts ... Supposedly the town did not adopt the official name of Grafton until the first post office was established."³ The name prior to Grafton was "Cockletown".

¹ The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War. Written by Maj. George B. Davis, US Army, Leslie J. Perry, Civilian Expert, and Joseph W. Kirkley, Civilian Expert. Compiled by Capt. Calvin D. Cowles, 23rd US Infantry. Published by Gramercy Books, NY

² York County Historical Series E-1 (Rev. 1995), Grafton Keeps Fading. Written for the York Town Crier in 1988 by Dick Ivy, and edited and arranged by Dick Ivy, and published by the York County Historical Committee. Information based on The Days of My Early Years, by Benjamin Wm. Thomas, grandson of Wm. Henry Moore.

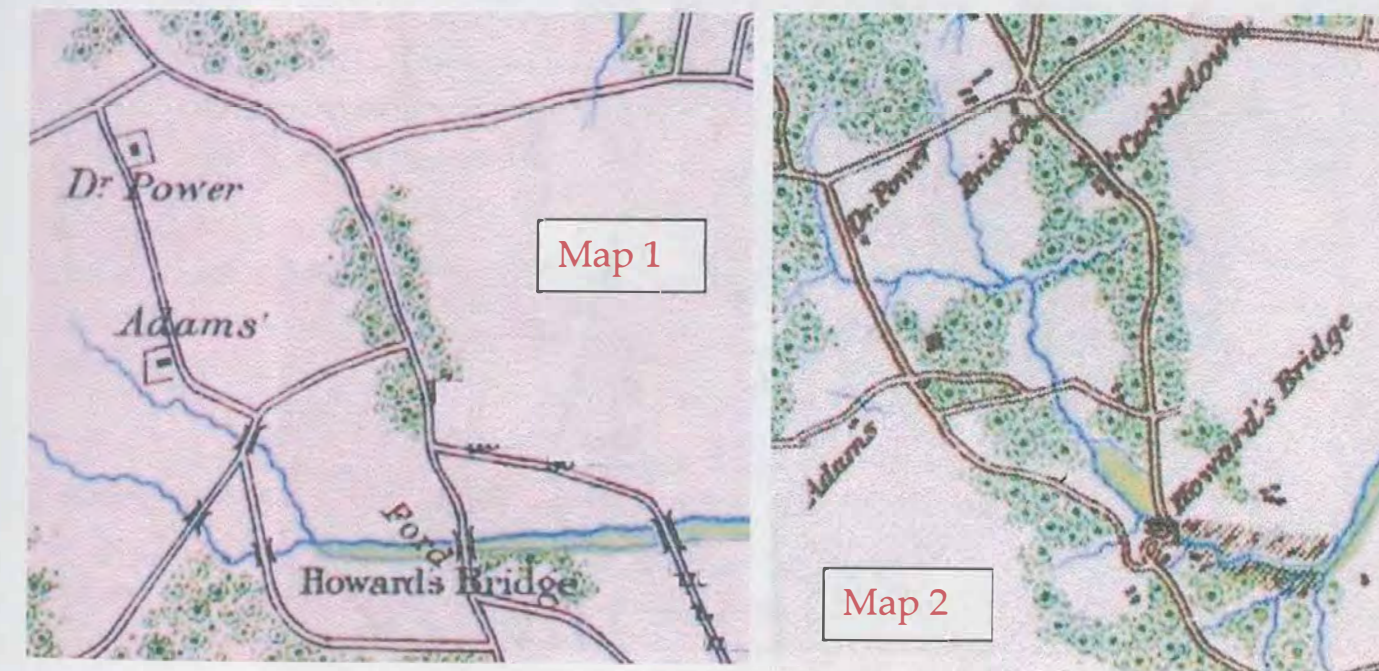
³ York County's Grafton, The Way It Used To Be, as told by Ralph Meredith and written by Janice Meredith Wood.

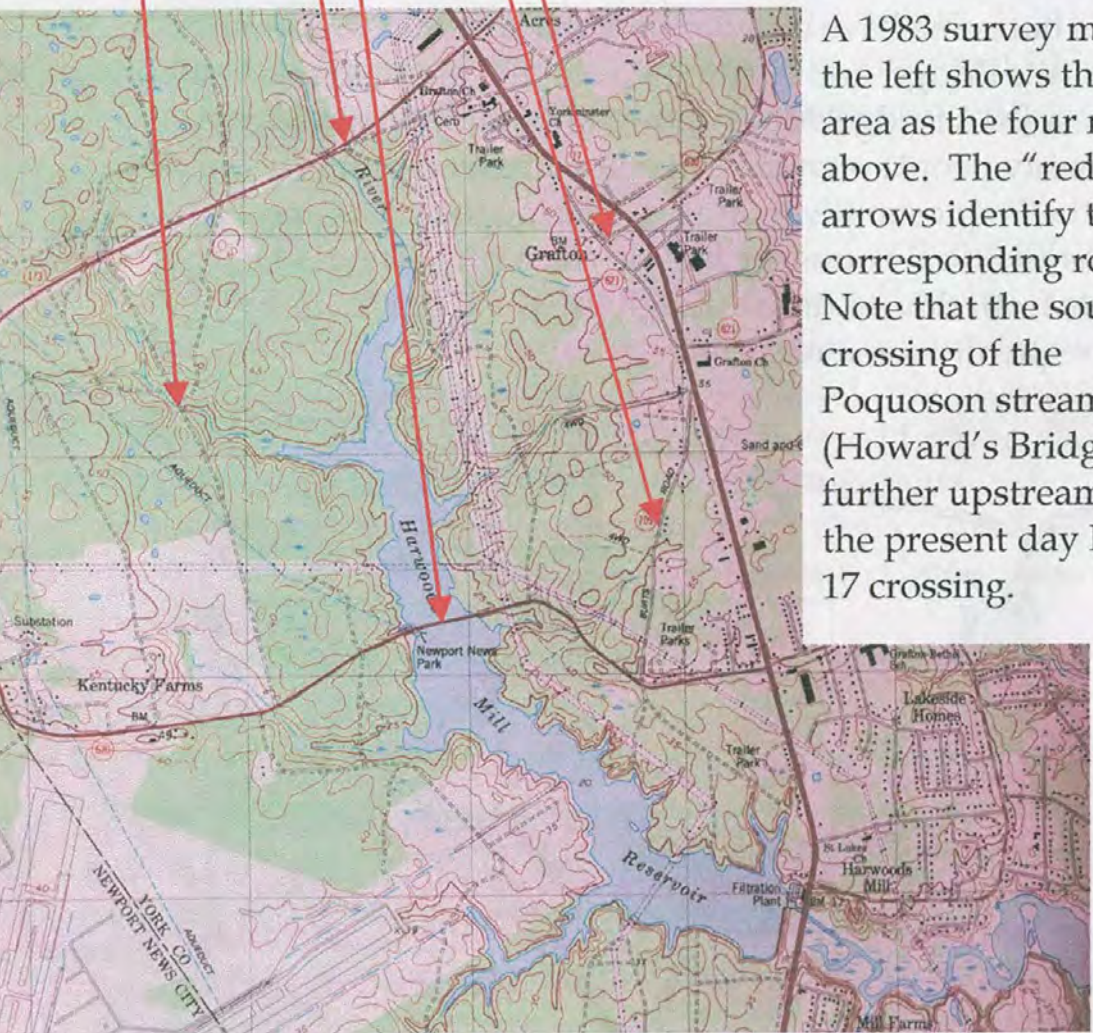
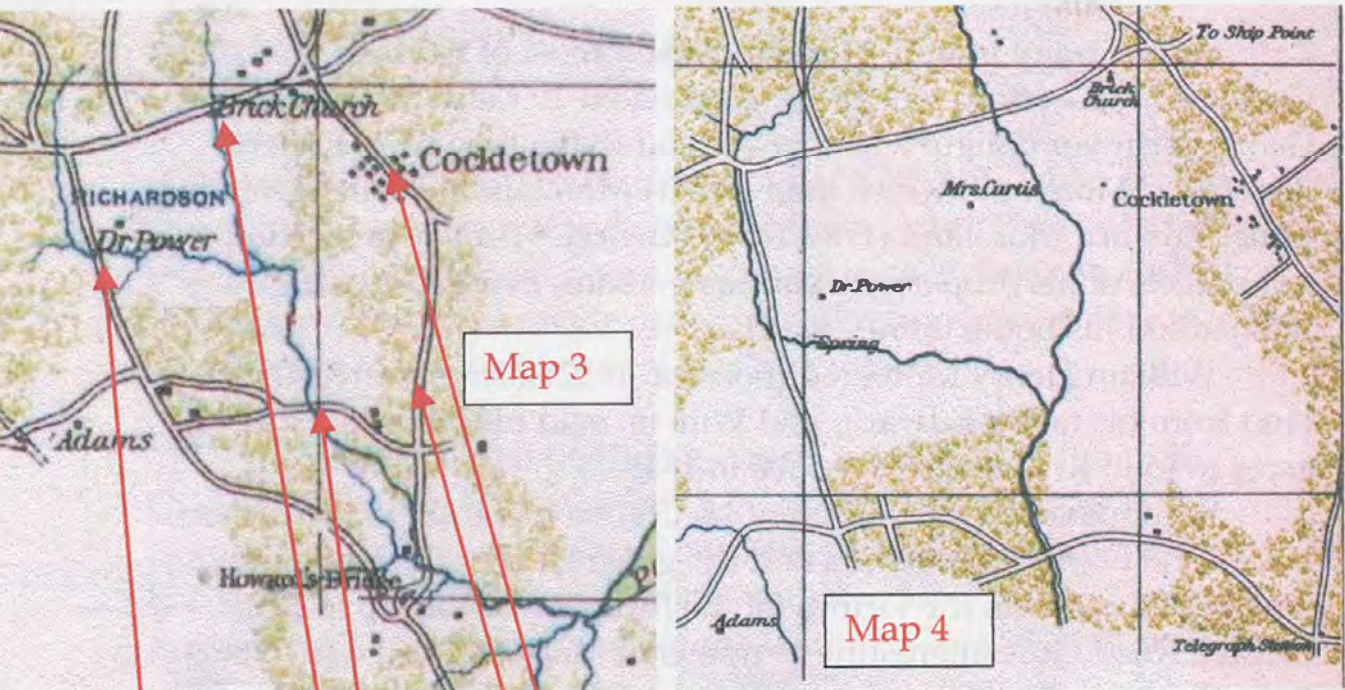
At one point in time Morelands held most of the land in Cockletown (Grafton) village. A deed dated 19 May 1857 stated that George Trimyer bought a 75-acre farm and dwelling from Robert Alexander Moreland, which land Robert Moreland inherited from his father Edward Moreland (1786-1838). George Trimyer proceeded to sell parcels of his property to various persons, even though he maintained his home there.

William Henry Moreland (born ca. 1822) also inherited Grafton land from his father Edward, and William sold his inheritance of 100 acres to John R. Chandler for \$500 in 1849.

Sections of the four different McClellan maps are presented below and each shows names and the geography of the land, and stream and roads in the vicinity of the future reservoir up to Brick Church Road. It is interesting to note that Maps 2, 3 and 4 (ca. 1862) have the name Cockletown not Grafton. The roads show similar configurations but some have different lengths and angles. Three identify Howard's Bridge, and four the Power and Adams farms. In addition to Howard's Bridge, Map1 shows four additional bridges.

York County people owned farm and plantation property on both sides of the Poquoson River stream. During the 1800s and 1900s the stream was a natural boundary line between properties. The land changed hands from time to time through the years by sale or by marriage consequently some names disappeared.





A 1983 survey map on the left shows the same area as the four maps above. The "red" arrows identify the corresponding roads. Note that the south crossing of the Poquoson stream (Howard's Bridge) was further upstream than the present day Route 17 crossing.

Poquoson River Stream Crossings 1862 - 1919

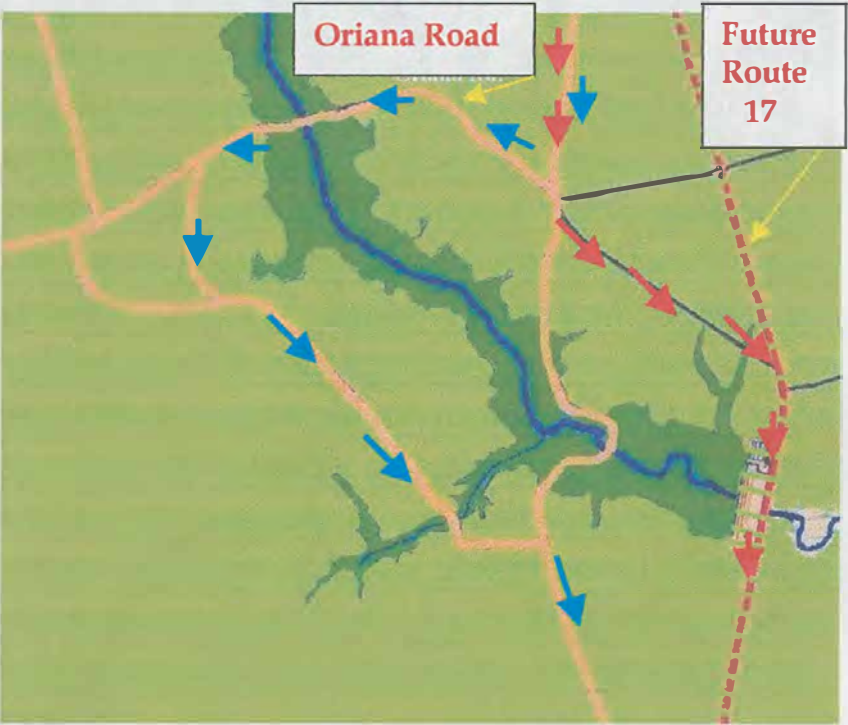
Elizabeth (Bessie) Hogg and Wesley Ironmonger traveled to Hampton in a horse drawn buggy in 1909 when they went to North Carolina to get married. Bessie Ironmonger related that they had to cross the Poquoson River stream at the location where the Oriana Road bridge is located today, that there was no bridge, that the crossing was on ground over a slight stream, and that there were no bridges downstream.

Thelma Ironmonger Hansford related that in 1918, when traveling to school, she crossed a bridge where the Route 17 bridge is located today, realizing of course that Route 17 was not constructed until 1927. The route was south on York-Hampton Road, which turned east just south of Burt's Corner, and then turned south again to the aforementioned bridge.

To the right is an enhancement of the Old Dominion Land Company's 1919 map.

- (1) wooden bridge
- (2) concrete bridge
- (3) wooden bridge
- (4) unreadable

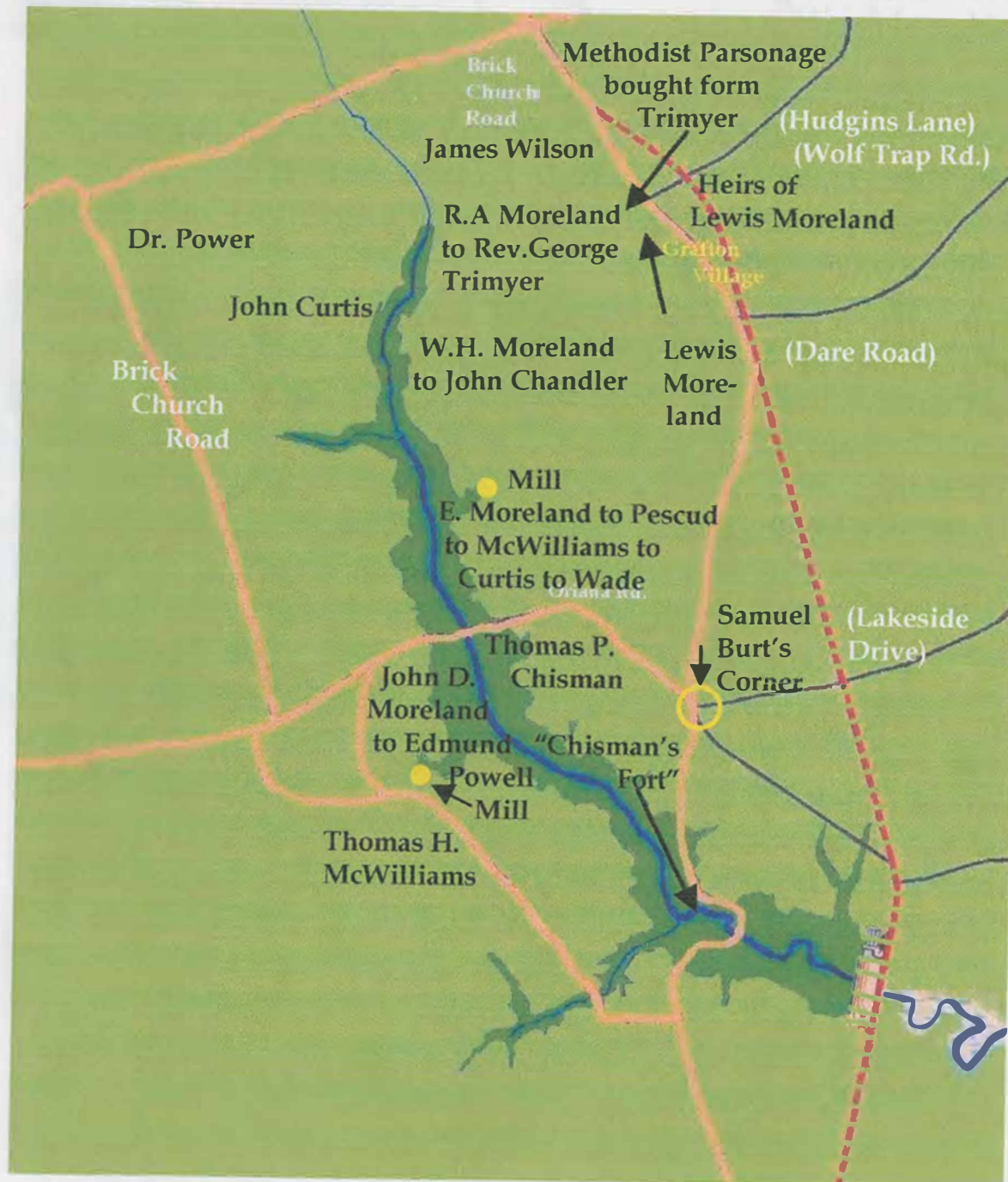
Thelma Hansford's travel route is marked with the red arrows. Ironmonger's is marked in blue.



The Civil War map no. 3 shows Howard's Bridge, perhaps at (2). Why there was no bridge in 1909 (Ironmonger) is not known. Speculation is that it was in disrepair. Remains of a bridge were found in location (2) when the reservoir was drained in 1980.

Edward Moreland Property

Edward Moreland (born 1786, died 1838) inherited 75 acres from his brother-in-law and first cousin Edward Tabb Chisman. Those tracts inherited by his sons identify additional land he owned. His sons are: John Dunn Moreland, William Henry Moreland and Robert Alexander Moreland. The map below will aid in the discussions that follow.



John Dunn Moreland (born 1818) and his wife in 1839 sold 106 acres to Edmund Powell bound on the east by the Harwood Mill stream, north by Edward Moreland (deceased by that time), east by Thomas P. Chisman, and south by Thomas H. McWilliams.

Christopher Curtis bought the Thomas McWilliams' estate. Curtis willed it to his daughter Ann Cary Curtis who married Chidley Wade and it became known as "Wades Farm". It was originally the Pescud Plantation; a daughter, Elizabeth Pescud, married Thomas H. McWilliams. The McWilliams are buried in the family graveyard on that farm, as are Edward and Alice Winder. Great grandchildren Thelma Hansford and John Ironmonger visited these gravesites as late as 1994.

Thomas P. Chisman owned a tract between the McWilliams-Wade farm and the intersection of York-Hampton and Oriana Roads called Burt's corner. Edward Moreland bound the tract on the north. Records speak of "Chisman's Fort" which may have been at the head of the Poquoson River but upstream from the bridge where Route 17 is today. (There was a road/bridge across the Poquoson River at the Route 17 location during the U.S. Civil War according to maps. Robert Hansford hauled dirt for construction of the Route 17 bridge.)

William Henry Moreland, second son of Edward Moreland (born 1822-1824), inherited land from his father. He and his wife, Frances Anne Wynne Moreland, sold a 100-acre tract to John R. Chandler for \$300 in 1849. Robert A. Moreland bound this tract on the north, Lewis Moreland on the east, Christopher Curtis, Sr. on the south, and Dr. Power and John Curtis on the west.

Robert Alexander Moreland, third son of Edward Moreland, inherited land from his father. He sold a 75-acre tract to Reverend George Trimyer for \$100 in 1857. James Wilson bound the tract on the north, John R. Chandler on the south, John Curtis on the west, and the heirs of Lewis Moreland across the road (York-Hampton) on the east.

Based on references to the Lewis Moreland Tract in these descriptions above, his land may have been bound on the west by the swamp and "old road" that divided it from the land of Christopher Curtis, Jr. and Robert Lee. The 1965 Geological Survey Map shows abandoned roads in that area and these may be the "old road" indicated by the "red" arrows. This proposal seems to follow the Deed Book descriptions, especially with the "east" reference in the William Henry Moreland land description.

On the other hand it is possible that the Lewis Moreland Tract was located on the east side of York-Hampton Road in the area between Wolf Trap Road and Jefferson Lane (Brick Church Road east) as shown by the "blue" arrows. Christopher Curtis, Jr. and Robert Lee owned the Belle Tract, which became Acree Acres, and the swamp separated it from the Lewis Moreland property. This location may be possible since the area became the property of the Lewis Moreland heirs. The "old road" in this case would have been Wolf Trap Road or Hudgins Lane where Wolf Trap Estates are located.



Cockletown (Grafton Village)

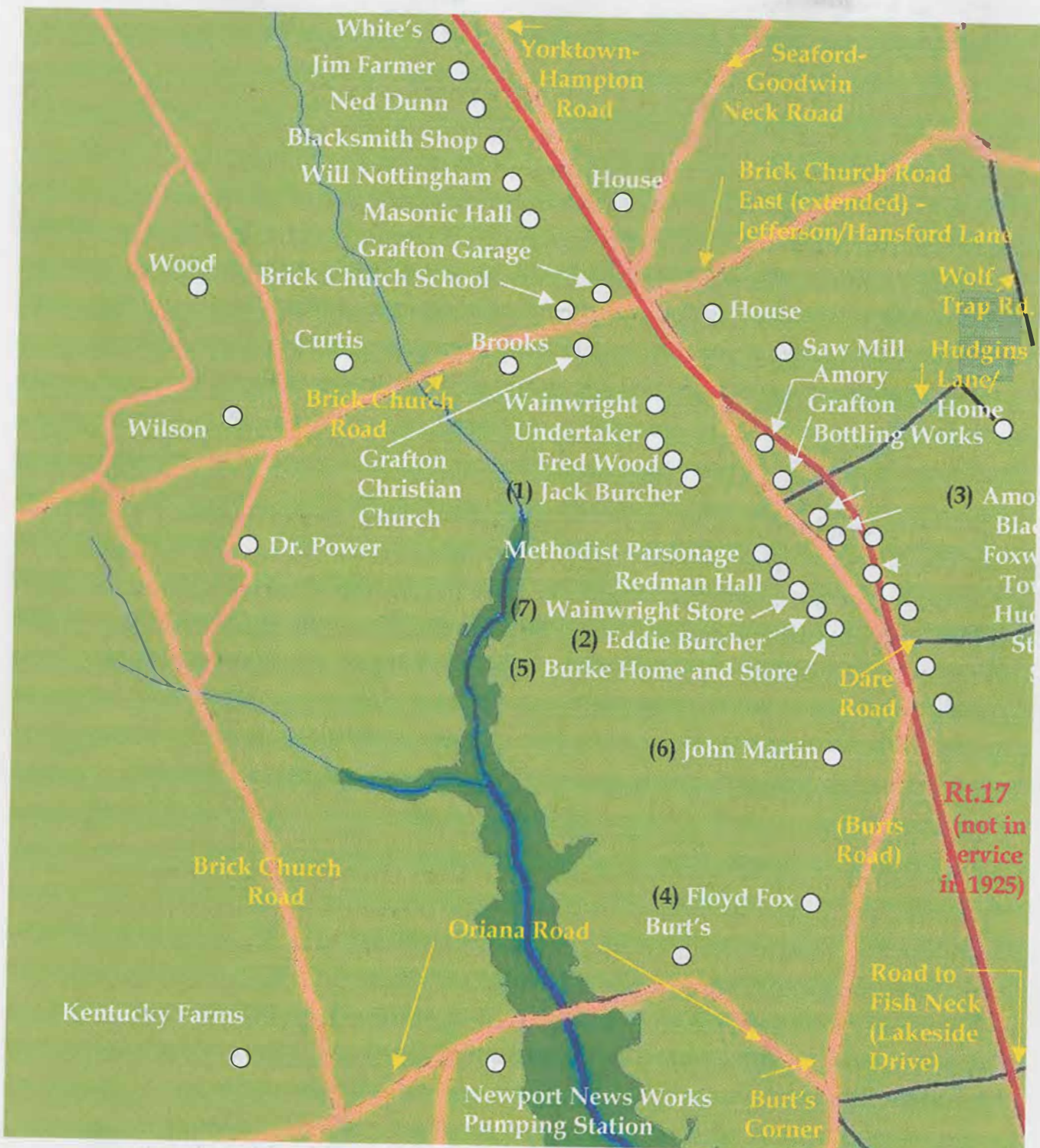
Shown on the next page is a map of Grafton ca. 1925 depicting some old roads still in use, old roads abandoned, and roads new and/or improved along with homes and businesses. The original Poquoson River and outline of the reservoir water is also shown. For more information including pictures on 1925 Grafton, refer to *York County's Grafton, The Way It Used To Be*, by Janice Meredith Wood and Ralph Meredith, and *York County Historical Series E-1* (Rev. 1995), *Grafton Keeps Fading*, written by Dick Ivy. The bold number, in black with the title, is a reference on the map for the house or business.

(1) The Jack Burcher House

It is not known who built the house, but Mrs. Vera Groves, a widow, lived there ca. 1920. With one child to support, she earned a livelihood as a seamstress. Many women in Grafton, Crab Neck and Hornsbyville utilized her services. Fabrics were bought at either Mrs. Wainwright's or Mrs. Wade, and both stores carried all accessories and supplies needed for sewing.

Mrs. Groves was born Vera Lee Hogge, December 11, 1871. She married, first, Conrad Kite of Baltimore, Maryland. He died and she married, secondly, Edward Groves, April 11, 1906. Their daughter, Dorothy, was born January 29, 1907. This daughter married and made her home in Newport News. Mrs. Vera Groves left Grafton and lived with her daughter. Dorothy died a relatively young woman leaving two children and an aged mother. Mrs. Vera Groves died September 11, 1969 at age 97 years.

Between W.W.I. and 1920, the Old Dominion Land Company was involved in the construction of the Harwoods Mill Reservoir. Land area between Oriana Road and Fort Eustis Boulevard was bought and became the watershed for the reservoir. Many families, who owned productive farms, were bought-out and had to relocate elsewhere. Among these was the Laura Burcher family (Lewis Burcher Family). They moved into the Grafton house that Mrs. Groves once occupied. Mrs. Burcher and her three children lived out their lives in Grafton Village.



Shown is Grafton in ca. 1925 depicting some old roads still in use, old roads abandoned, and roads new/improved along with homes and businesses. The original Poquoson River stream and outline of the reservoir water is also shown. For more information on 1925 Grafton, refer to *York County's Grafton, The Way It Used To Be*, by Ralph Meredith and Janice Meredith Wood.

(2) The Edward Burcher House

Miles Edward Burcher, son of Miles and Mollie Charles Burcher, was born July 28, 1872. He married Carrie Maud Ironmonger, daughter of Lemuel Ironmonger, December 30, 1913. They had no children.

At first they lived in the house that had been his parents' dwelling. It was down a short lane on the south side of Oriana Road. It was the first residence after crossing the road-dam, across the road from Kentucky Farms.

It is not known when the Burchers sold this house and moved to Grafton Village. They purchased the dwelling formerly occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Berkley.

Mr. Eddie Burcher died January 29, 1944 and his wife, Carrie, died in 1958. Both are buried in the cemetery for Grafton Christian Church.

Regarding the Berkley's: the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer and Ida Crockett was named Berkley for Dr. Berkley who delivered him. (This Crockett family lived in Fish Neck (Dare) on Chisman's Creek; they are the same Crocketts who later bought the old Methodist Church Parsonage in Grafton.)

(3) The Walter Amory House

A house eventually occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Amory was across the road from the Methodist Parsonage. Prior to the Amorys, Mr. and Mrs. John Christopher Wade operated both a grocery and dry goods store on the first floor of a large house. Their daughter, Lula Wade, married Rev. Andrew Jackson Renforth and they also lived there. The Renforths reared three children in Grafton Village. Rev. Renforth served as Pastor of the Grafton Christian Church and he also was Superintendent of the Public Schools ca. 1910. Eventually both the Wade and Renforth families left Grafton and relocated to Yorktown. The Wades continued to operate a store and the Renforths had a large home, which was the Monument Lodge (all eventually razed by the National Park Service).

The next occupants of that house were Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Myrtle Amory who likewise operated a store. Myrtle was postmistress for Grafton many years. Following Walter's death Myrtle married Clarence Green.

(4) The White / Fox House

Mr. and Mrs. Pelham and Lucy Ray White resided in what later became the Fox residence. They had a large family, one son of which married Lois Crockett of Seaford. The Pelham White family left York County and relocated in Warwick County at the intersection of what today is Nettles Drive and Warwick Boulevard. The Fox family soon thereafter took up residence in the house. However, while in York County Pelham White was a baseball fan, often umpiring games between local teams, and was also interested in politics of the local government.

Lucy Ray White's sister Elizabeth (Betty) was the wife of Leroy Amory and lived at the Thomas J. Crockett place. Another sister Mary (Molly) Ray married Mr. Martin from Dare, and her daughter Marvella married (6) John Martin and lived in the Martin House that later became the first York County Library. A third sister Sarah (Sally) Ray married Charlie Burcher, a brother to Eddie Burcher. The Charlie Burchers left their farm, along Brick Church Road near Oriana Road, and relocated to Dare on Patrick's Creek. There was a fourth sister Martha Ray who married Frank Elliott and reared a large family. The Elliots had a farm that is now the development on Lakeside Drive across from Grafton Bethel Elementary School. These sisters attended Grafton Christian Church.

(5) The Laura Burke / Leroy Hogge House

Laura Burke, a widow with two children, bought this building, which housed a general merchandise and a residence.

Annie Lee Hogg, sister to William Henry Hogg (Billy) of Hornsbyville, was born December 28, 1870. On January 2, 1890, she married Mr. Leroy R. Hogge, a widower with two children. Annie had no children. This family resided in the Burke house and

operated a business. Leroy Hogge died December 26, 1909, and some other family occupied that residence.

At the time that the Hogges lived there, Grafton was an active "stopover" area for travelers between Hampton and Yorktown, given that Grafton was located on the main York-Hampton Road. Traveling salesmen, commonly known as "drummers" (they drummed-up trade) stopped overnight in Grafton. Leroy Hogge operated his mercantile business in the front part of the house. Annie Hogge provided rooms and meals for the salesmen. The Hogges had a prosperous and comfortable living.

There were several stores in Grafton thus creating a setting that drew customers from the surrounding areas of Seaford and Dare, and even the area toward Warwick County. Mr. Joe Crockett operated one such business across the road from Leroy Hogge.

Beside the Crockett store was a two story dwelling where Mrs. Fannie Crockett, a widow, lived with her children, two of which were Wendall and Margaret.

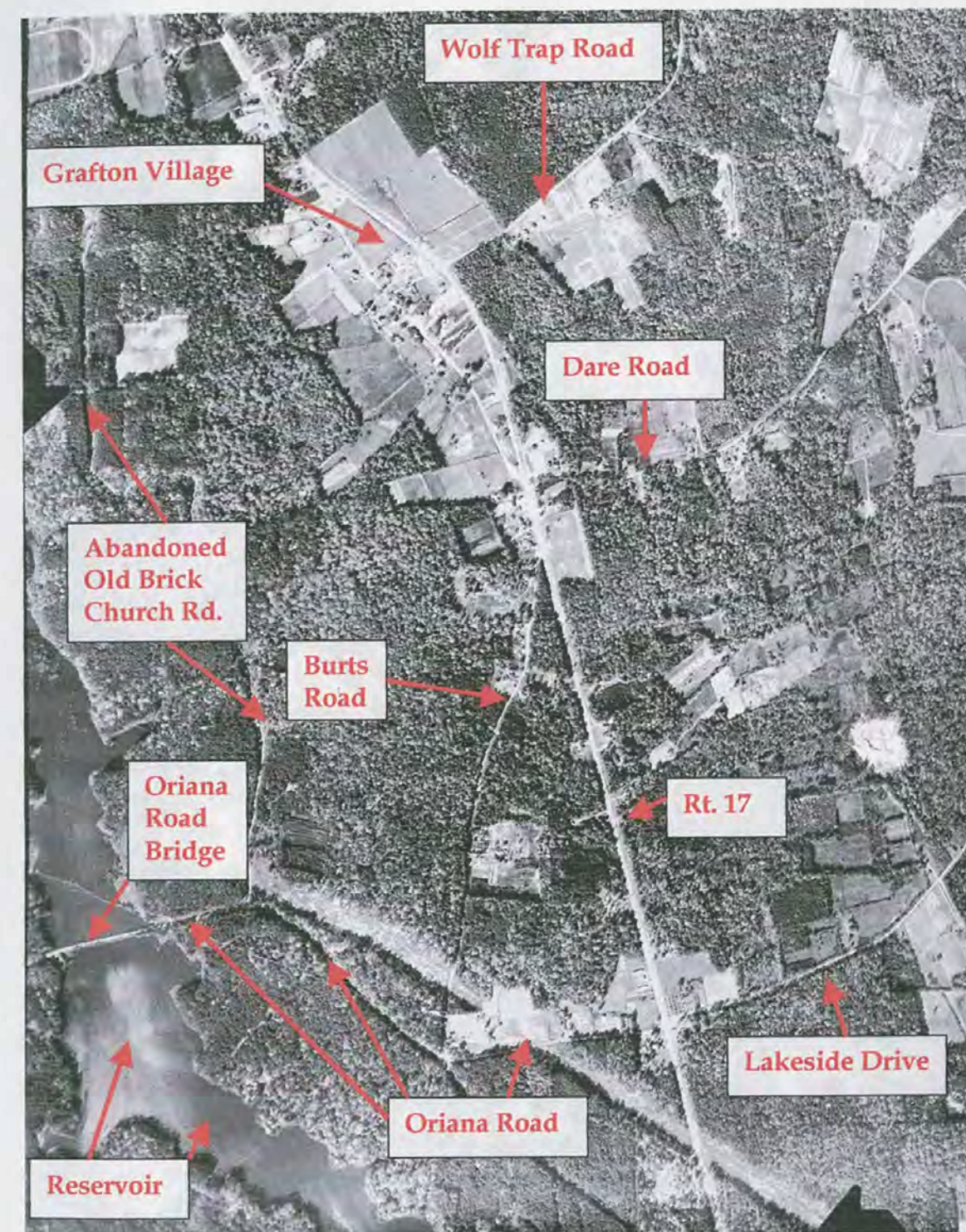
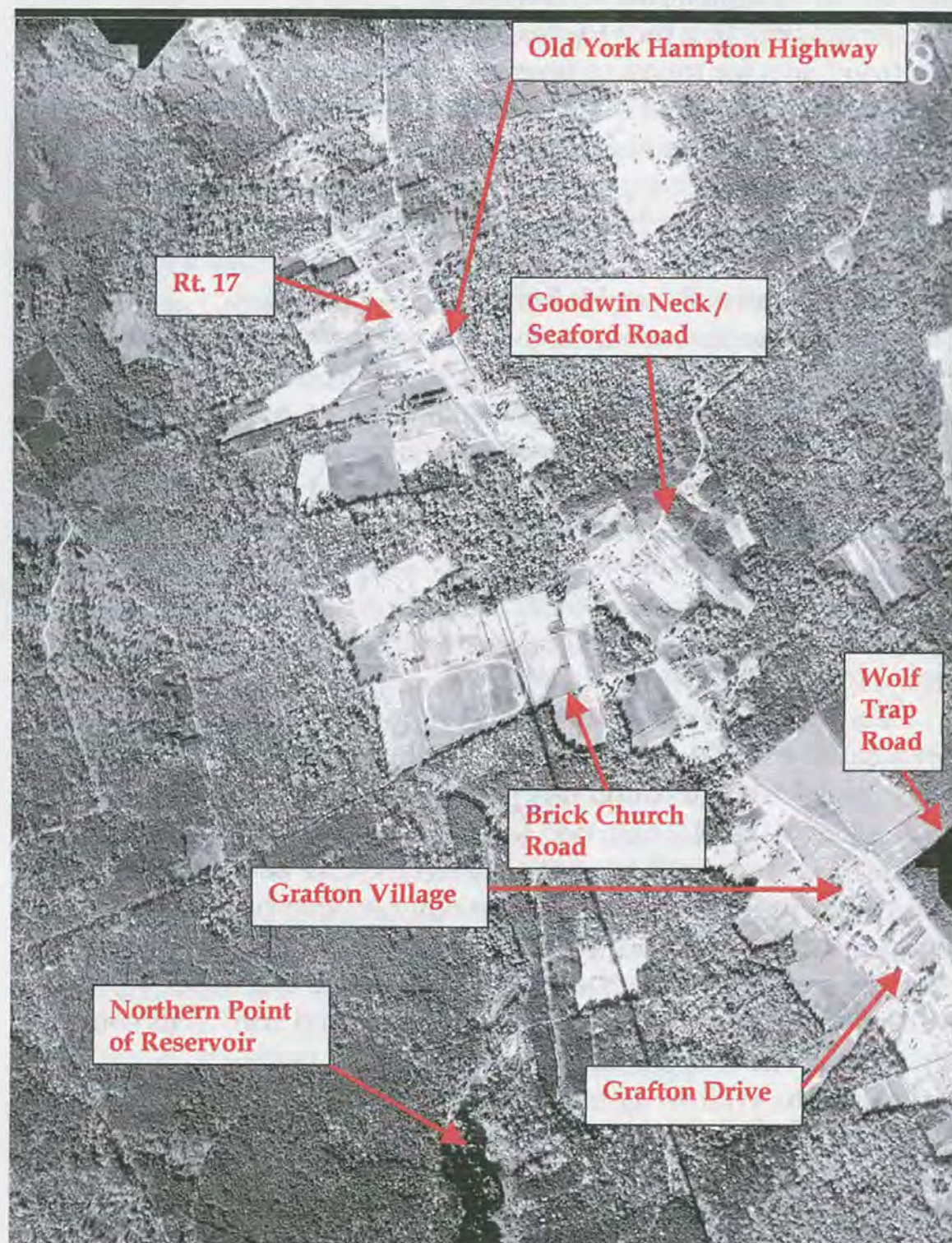
(7) The W.T. Wainwright Store

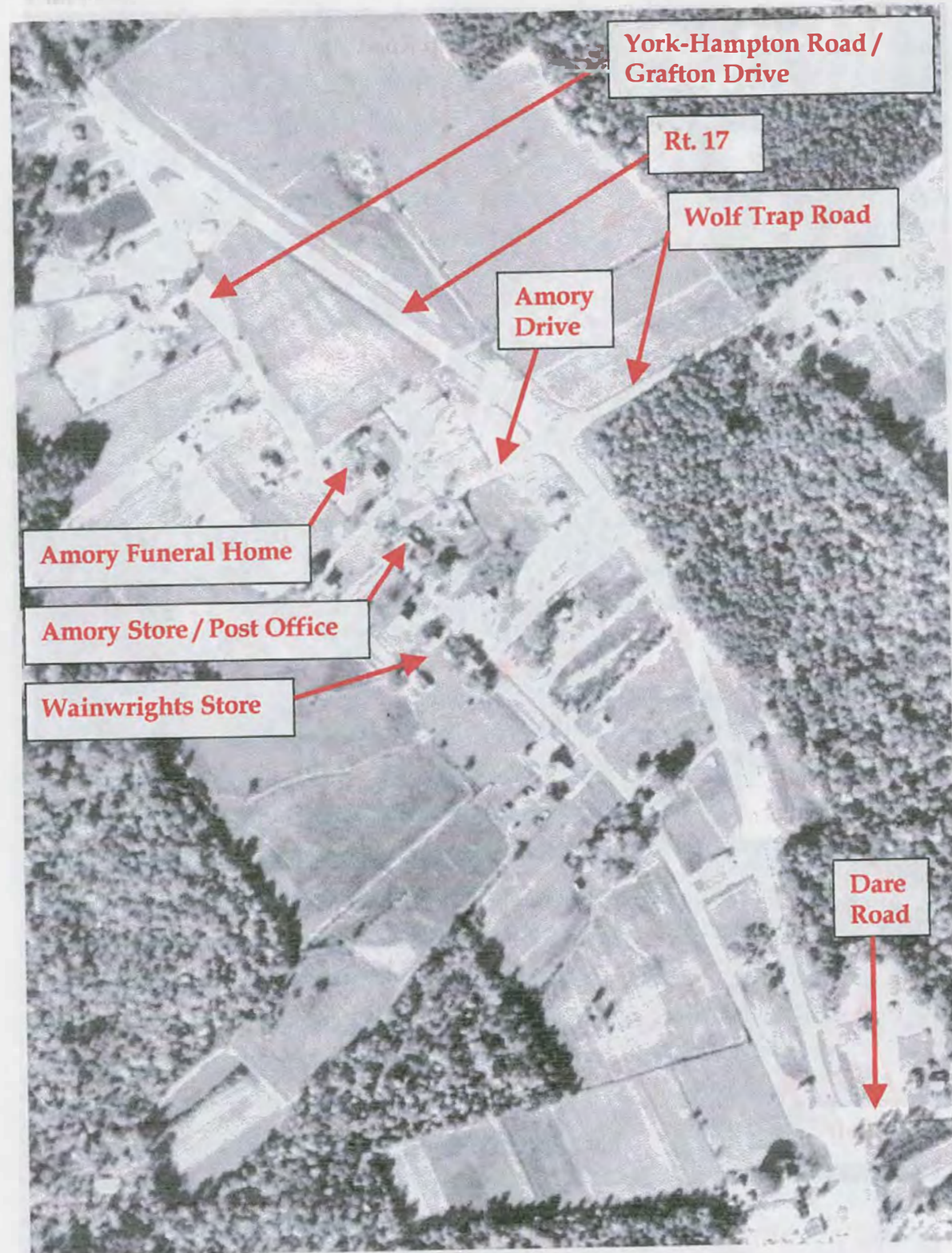
Records show that Jesse Curtis Wainwright on 26 May 1875, purchased for \$25.00 one half-acre lot from George Trimyer. The Methodist Parsonage bound this parcel on the north, the main road (Grafton Drive) on the east, and John C. Chandler on the south. A building was constructed and Wainwright's store became a reality. Jesse Wainwright (born 1832) was an older brother of William Thomas Wainwright (born 1850).

The store was known as "W.T. Wainwright and Brother", but in 1916 and thereafter, it was "W.T. Wainwright and Son". His son, Henderson Wainwright, joined the partnership.

After the Wainwrights became interested in the small village of Cockletown (Grafton), not only did they operate a rather large mercantile business, but also "Capt. Billy" and "Miss Mamie" Wainwright resided in a complex that joined the store.

1953 Aerial Pictures of the Cockletown Corridor





The Reverend George and Mrs. Amelia Davis Trimyer lived in the home on the land they purchased from Moreland in Cockletown (Grafton). Later, a Methodist parsonage committee purchased the house with ten acres for \$800 (U.S. currency) to serve as a parsonage for Methodist ministers of the York Charge. Later, the original house and part of the ten acres was sold to Elmer C. Crockett and wife. In 1939-40 a new parsonage residence was built on this same tract of land, but in 1994 was razed to build a road leading to Grafton High and Middle School.

Some members of the Providence Methodist Church, Fish Neck (Dare) erected a church building in Grafton in 1894 called the Grafton Methodist Chapel. Membership included Nottingham, Wornom, Martin, Burcher, Howard, Evans, and Winder. In 1911 Leroy Amory bought the building, moved it across the road (York-Hampton / Grafton Drive), and used it for the Grafton Bottling Works. This new location was the northeast corner of Amory Lane and Grafton Drive.

Wainwright Property

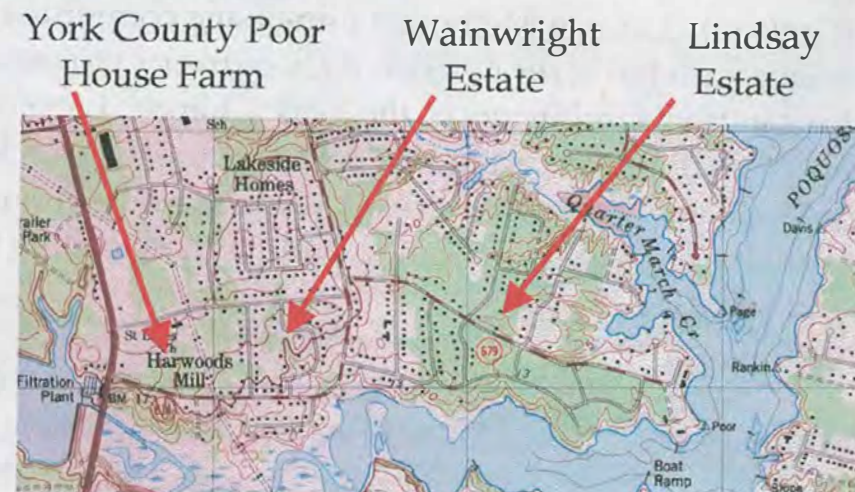
John¹ Wainwright came from Virginia's Eastern Shore before 1810 with four sons born in the years 1802-1809 with names: John², Evans, Jesse Curtis and William. The mother of John's¹ sons apparently died for he married Peggy Richardson in 1815 according to York County records. John¹ served in the War of 1812 with occupation description of bricklayer. John's¹ oldest son John² (born 1802, died 1868) had property described as follows: "land situated on Poquoson River bounded on the north by Wheeler and public road: on the east by Messick and William J. Lindsay; south by said river and west by Poor House tract - 218 acres." (Years later part of this tract was sold to Arthur Showalter, hence the name Showalter Road.)

Brothers J.C. and W.T. Wainwright, along with their siblings, inherited portions of the 218-acre tract on the Poquoson River, bounded on the west by the York County Poor House Farm (the present Showalter Road development). The division of their father's landed estate was settled in 1874. W.T., and wife Mary E.

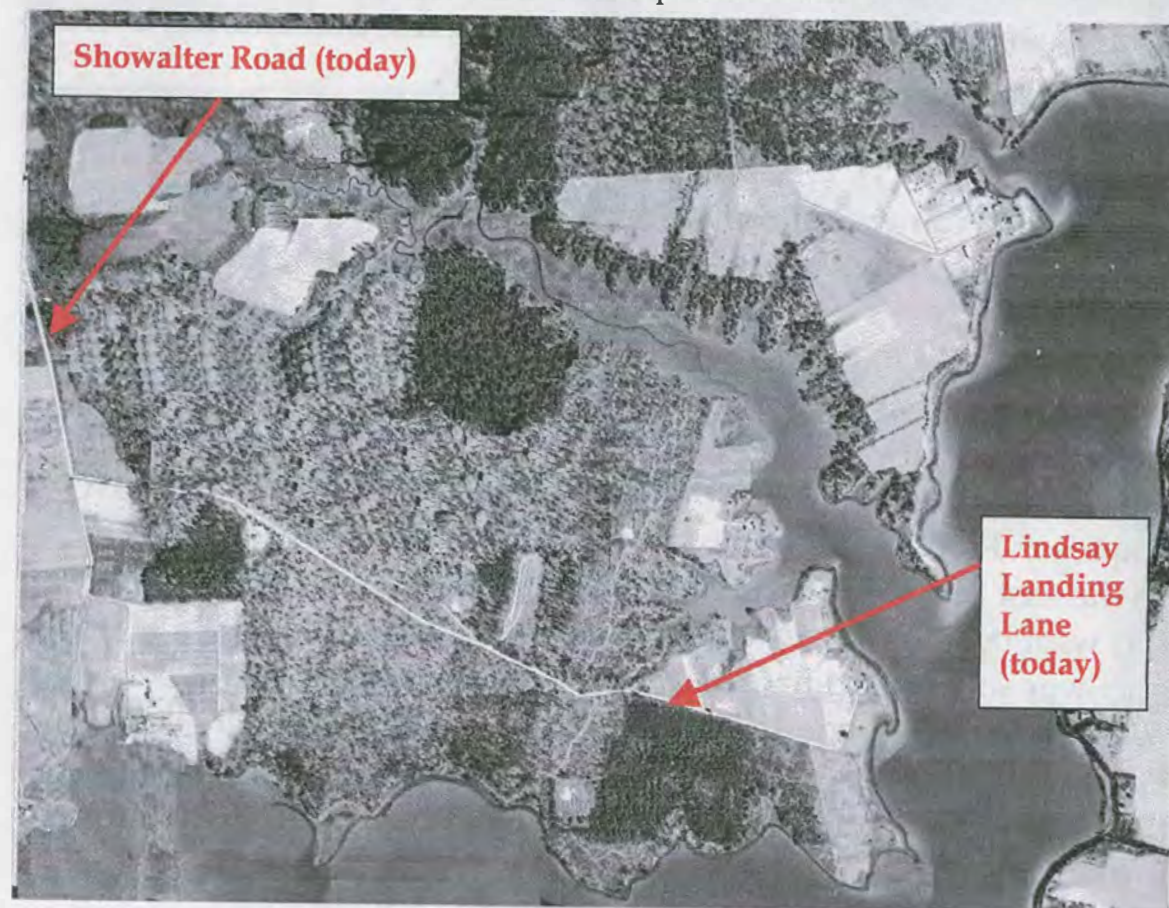
Wainwright, sold his 36-1/3 acre portion to brother Jesse, and his wife Martha Lawson, 22 August 1875.



Lindsay Home



A section of the 1983 survey map above shows the location of the Lindsay, Wainwright and Poor Farm properties. Some of the same land is shown in the 1937 aerial photo below.



Brothers J.C. and W.T. Wainwright began buying up Grafton land from other residents. Around 1883 and 1885 W.T. and George Curtis (his nephew and son of Jesse) Wainwright bought in the tract of John R. Chandler at his death. They also bought land throughout the Grafton Magisterial District and resold later at a profit.

W.T and Mary Wainwright sold five acres to J.J. Nottingham for \$750 in 1890. The main road (Grafton Drive) bound this parcel on the east, C.A. Hopkins/J.C. Chandler on the south, the Methodist Parsonage on the north, and W.T. and J.C. Wainwright on the north and west (Chandler land). The location of this parcel indicates that it may have been the same as the Laura Burke Tract.

Construction of a building took place on this parcel of land and thus began the store called, first W.T. Wainwright and Brother, and then later W.T. Wainwright and Son.

George Curtis Wainwright, son of Jesse who was son of John¹, was known throughout the area as "Capt. Curt Wainwright". He owned sizable tracts of land on the Poquoson River where he engaged in the profitable oyster business. The William J. Lindsay's property bounded the Wainwright homestead.

A 1999 aerial photo below shows the Lindsay, Wainwright and Poor Farm tracts.



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York County Poor House Farm Wainwright Estate Lindsay Estate

Grafton School

One source of information concerning pre and post 1900 Grafton School comes from the writings of Elizabeth Ironmonger.

Excerpts from School Days

Chapter 1

In the fall of 1896 my brother, William Edward Hogg (called Eddie), started to school walking three miles to Grafton School. It was situated across the road from Grafton Christian Church. Mrs. Ellen Nottingham was the teacher of this one room school that year.

About the same time my father started to teach me at home the ABC's and how to count to one hundred.

Brother attended the five months session, which began the first Monday in October. The teacher planned to teach only a half-day on the last day of school. They would have a sugar stew in the afternoon.

Mama said I could go with brother on this last day of school, which was about the middle of March. I was delighted with the prospect of going to school with brother.

We got up early, had breakfast, then we dressed to go to school. I was dressed in one of my better dresses. Mama combed my long straight (not curly) hair and tied it with a pretty ribbon.

Mama told me, "Bessie you don't have to say any lessons". We set out to walk the three miles to school, brother carrying his two or three books in a book bag, and a bucket that contained our lunch.

At nine o'clock the teacher "took in" school with the reading of the Bible and praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

I was seated in the section of school with the little girls. One girl picked at my hair ribbon. Her hair was tied with a cloth string.

Mrs. Ellen held classes and heard lessons all morning. Just before recess she said to me, "Bessie, come up here and say a lesson". Now I remembered Mama had told me I wouldn't say a lesson. I was faced with a dilemma. I thought, "If I don't obey the teacher and say a lesson, she will whip me. If I do say a lesson my Mama will whip

me". I quickly decided to say the lesson, as I would rather Mama whip me than to have Mrs. Ellen whip me before all the children. I went up to the teacher's desk. She took a Primer from another little girl and put her pencil on A in the Primer. I immediately said, "Big A, Little a; Big B, little b; Big C, little c; Big D, little d, and on through the alphabet to Big Z, little z". This is the way my Papa had taught the alphabet to me.

I caught my breath and Mrs. Ellen turned the page. She pointed to the reading about "Rab", a dog, and I read that perfectly. She then turned to a third page and I read that perfectly also. Mrs. Ellen complimented me and sent me back to my seat.

The morning session closed and school "let out". We all ate our lunches. Mrs. Ellen then put a pan of sugar on the stove to boil. While the sugar was stewing the children all played games in the schoolyard.

When the sugar was ready, Mrs. Ellen "pulled" it. As it cooled it turned into candy, which she cut into pieces. She passed it around to all the children. Everyone was eating candy of the "pulled sugar".

We told Mrs. Ellen goodbye and left the school about 4:00 o'clock to walk home. Mama welcomed us back home and inquired about the day. I told her that Mrs. Ellen had called on me to say a lesson. I had done so because I thought she would whip me if I refused. "I'd rather you, Mama, would whip me than for Mrs. Ellen to have whipped me", I told her. Mama said she had no intention of whipping me for disobedience. She had meant I was to have a nice day at school, with no responsibility of lessons, as I was a guest at the school.

This was my first day at school and I had enjoyed it. I know I was tired after the three-mile walk to and from school. This was quite an achievement for a little five-year-old girl.

Chapter 2 (1897-1898)

As I have stated the York County public schools in 1895-6 were run only five months, beginning the first part of October and closing the first part of March. Some person in the community usually "opened" a private school the

middle of March. Our parents paid the private teacher one dollar a month per pupil. The private school usually ran two months. In March of 1897, when I was a little over five years old, Miss Alice Strong opened a private school in the Grafton School house, where Mrs. Ellen Nottingham had taught the public school session. Miss Strong lived with Rev. and Mrs. Hobday at the Methodist Parsonage in Grafton.

I think there were about fifteen pupils in this private school. Our parents arranged with Miss Alice for brother and me to attend. About the middle of March 1897 brother and I were enrolled. Again we had the three-mile to take each morning and afternoon.

Brother had a book bag in which he carried his First Reader by McGuffey, a spelling book by Holmes, and a small slate. He also carried my Primer for me and I carried our dinner bucket.

I reviewed the first part of my Primer that Papa had taught me. I then took up new material in my Primer. During the two months time I finished my book. I could count to one hundred. I must have had a slate too, for I was writing ABC's and my name in 1897.

We did not have desks in the school. We sat on benches with no backs. There was an extension built on the walls of the schoolroom to be used as desks for our writing exercises. We could turn around on the benches and put our backs against this "desk" extension when we were not writing.

I must have been a right good little student, for I was given three small Story Books the last day of school by my teacher.

As warm weather in May came on, the three-mile walk became rather tiresome. We were ready for vacation when our private school closed at the end of a two months session.

In October 1897 I was six years old. Brother and I went to public school at the Grafton School house, again Miss Nellie Gray was the teacher.

That fall I was ready for the First Reader, the Spelling book, writing and figures on a slate. Mama bought the two new books and slate for me. I was put in a class with my brother.

We rarely missed a day from school because of bad weather. Again the public school session closed in March 1898 and we

attended private school during the spring of 1898. Miss Nellie Gray taught this for two months. October 1898 school was a repetition of the previous year. Brother and I walked the three miles to Grafton School. Miss Nellie Gray was the teacher for another session.

Brother and I were in class together. We were using the Second Reader, Holme's blue back Spelling Book, Elementary Arithmetic, and writing exercises on our slates.

The schools were graded and classes advanced by personal study.

Chapter 3 (1899-1900)

In the fall of 1899 the men in the Hornsbyville and Wormley's Creek areas set about to have a school at Hornsbyville.

Mr. Leroy Hornsby of Crab Neck had rented an empty store building at the crossroads. He set up a store there, thus the section was called Hornsbyville.

The men of the community met and decided that they would petition the County School Board to rent an empty single story dwelling. This was a house in the yard of Hornsby's store to be used five months for a school building for the year 1899-1900. The board passed this and the children would no longer have to take the three mile walk to Grafton School.

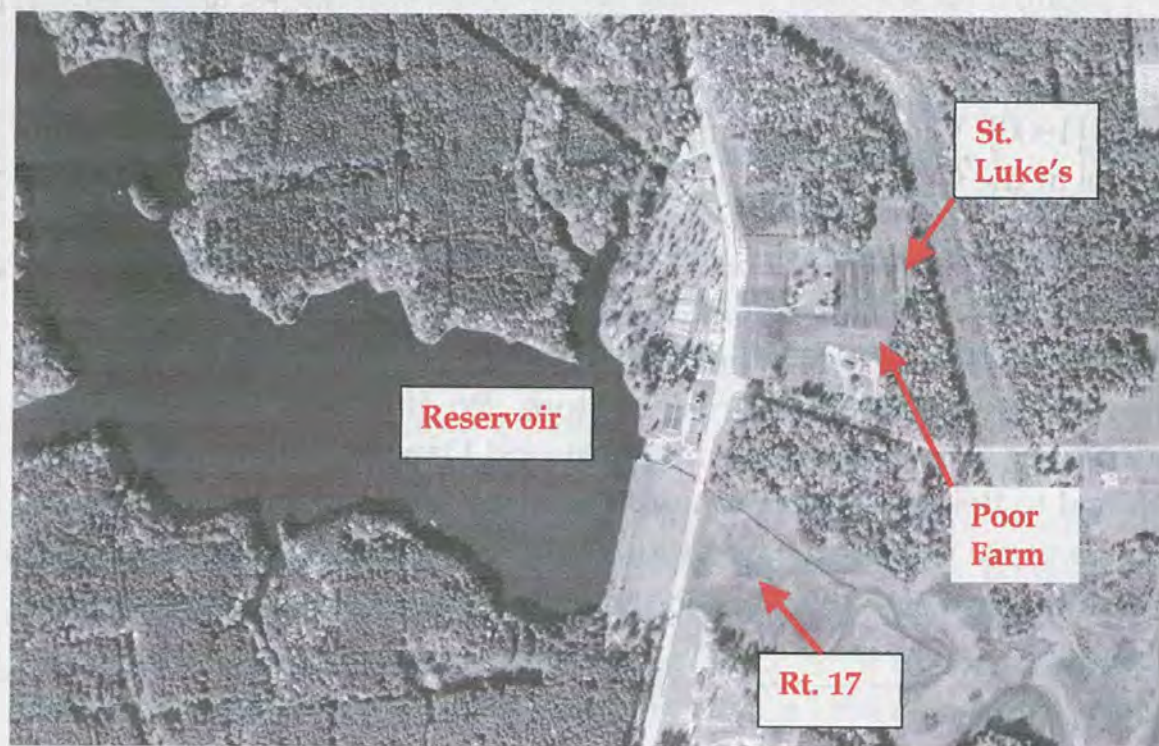
[1900] The last week in March Miss Nellie Gray opened private school at the Grafton School again. Mama arranged for us to attend. This year we decided to travel a different road to Grafton. We had been going to Grafton by way of the Goffigan store. This time we planned to go by Lee Davis' corner. It was a three-mile walk either way. So, we came up Wormley's Creek Road, crossed the stream and the field, coming out at Hornsby's store. We then walked down to Lee Davis' corner where we met Linwood Dawson. From there we walked to Bell's Hill where Alonza, Everett and Seymour Gray joined us. Soon we were at the Grafton School. We continued our lessons with Miss Nellie in the same books used with Miss Breathwait. In this way we made two months more attendance at school.

York County Poor House Farm

The Poor House Farm, which consisted of both land (originally 126 acres, later about 8 acres) and buildings, came into being about 1830. In 1845 York County contracted with John L. Wright to repair the dwelling house for \$394.99. The house was shingled, given new window sills, chimney back taken inside, hearth re-laid, dormer window installed, weatherboarding added/repared, front porch repaired, back porch replaced with steps, whitewashed, and plaster repaired. It was in use until the Depression years, about one hundred years, but never had electricity or indoor plumbing.

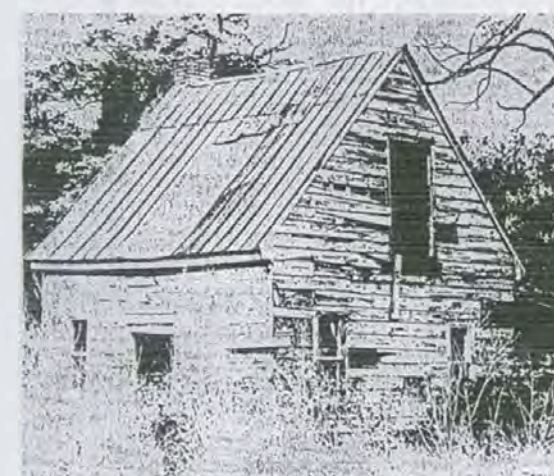
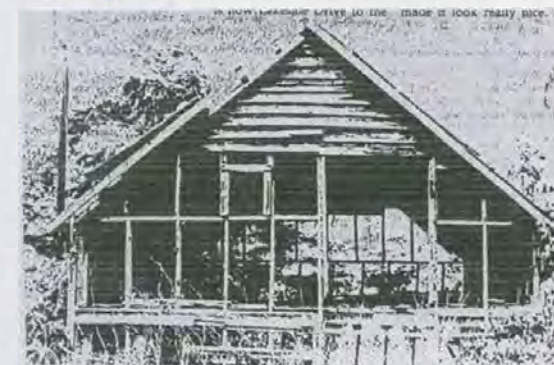
The collection of building included the caretaker's house, where meals were prepared, and the cottage residences where black and white people lived.

The farm was located between today's Ella Taylor and Showalter Roads, between Route 17 and the power lines to the east. But it should be noted that neither Route 17 nor the power lines were in existence at the time. In 1927, Route 17 was constructed in the vicinity of the farm area, about one hundred years later. In the 1940's, the county repaired and refurbished the farm's buildings. Below a 1953 aerial photo shows the tract.



Photos of Poor Farm Buildings

Large old trees surrounded the weathered buildings. These were for those people who had no one to take care of them.



The land parcels were sold in separate transactions to a George Cooper, and then in combination, sold by him to York County in 1842. York County continued the Poor House maintenance. The original parcel of 126 acres was sold in lots for over \$250,000 for a residential area.

George and Catherine McWilliams Cooper. She was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Pescud McWilliams (later Fletcher).



Catherine and her sister Fannie Barnes, of Elizabeth City County, went to Richmond during the Civil War for safety.



Roads and bridges across the Poquoson River stream were different then and show an evolution over the next 100 years, ending with the Route 17 and Oriana Road bridges. Route 17 was constructed along the western edge of the poorhouse farmland.

Excerpt from Poor House Lane School
By Elizabeth Ironmonger
(This event happened in October 1899)

In writing my "School Days" [story] I did not include a two-weeks attendance at Poor House Lane School in Fish Neck [Dare], York County, Virginia because it was not my regular school program. However, it may be of some interest as a separate story, so I will call to mind some episodes of that experience.

Grandpa Ed Winder raised on his farm in Fish Neck, a fine crop of peanuts in 1899. In the early fall the peanuts were ready to be harvested. He plowed them up and hung them to dry in tall cylinders of plants, full of the green peanuts. In about two weeks they were ready to be picked off the vines. Then Grandpa loaded two or three cylinders (called shocks) of peanuts into his cart; brought them to the farmyard where my mother, Fannie Bett Winder Hogg and Aunt Harriett Smith worked for two weeks, picking off the peanuts. Daily Grandpa brought up additional shocks.

In order for my mother to be free to assist in this peanut picking, she brought my brother Eddie, little sister Alice, and me with her to Grandpa's house. To do this, she took us out of school at Grafton and got permission to send Brother and me to the Poor House Lane School for two weeks.

Miss Cossie Powell was the teacher of this one-room school of about thirty or thirty-five pupils. Miss Cossie believed in corporal punishment and her table-desk contained a bunch of switches that she used for the slightest reason.

There were no regulation school desks in the schoolroom. The children sat on benches with no backs. There was a row of these benches extending around the room. Substitute desks were built into the room; boards from the walls of the room extended toward the benches and were used for writing and studying. The pupils could turn around on the backless benches and put their study book and writing materials on these substitute desks. This arrangement seemed to work satisfactorily.

In the class where I had been placed we were taught to add figures in our heads. Seven or eight pupils were lined up; Miss Cossie stood over them, with her switch in her hand, and asked, "How much is 9 and 6? Quick: how much is it?" And I answered "15". The switch was poised over my back. "How much is 8 and 7?" Again the answer was 15. "9 and 3"; "8 and 8"; "7 and 6" and thus the class recited the arithmetic lesson with the switch poised and sometimes coming down on the back of a pupil. I never knew how I managed to give the correct answers but I did learn to "count in my head."

One day Floyd Wood was caught with a chew of tobacco in his jaw. He was sent home. He gathered up his brother Sam and sister Laura and they went down the Poor House Lane, home to the Poor House Farm where Mr. Simon Wood was in charge of the poor people of the county. Mr. Wood whipped Floyd, and then sent the three children back to school. Miss Cossie received them, and she whipped Floyd again and then sent the three of them back to their books. This episode made quite a disturbance among the school children for book learning was interrupted.

Laura Wood was a bigger girl than I was and she picked on me during recess time. She would come up to me and say, "I'm going to beat (whip) you." I was afraid of her and I dared not tell Miss Cossie, for I thought Laura would make it appear that I was in fault and thus influence Miss Cossie to give me a beating. Laura was

"running a bluff" and before our two weeks were ended she came to me and told me that she was just fooling; that I was a nice girl and that she liked me. Thus we became friends.

The attendance at the school was so great that Miss Cossie could not complete the day's school program as she closed school at 4:00 p.m. thus leaving some lessons unheard.

We were introduced to Merrill's Spelling Book and Miss Cossie combined all of the pupils except beginners into one large spelling class and it was the last lesson each day.

A class of eight girls missed their lesson one day. The girls were lined up in front of Miss Cossie's table (desk) and the lesson progressed. They were giving all the answers wrong and Miss Cossie got out of patience with them. For punishment, she first gave them a severe "tongue lashing", calling them dunces; and then she took eight sheets of paper and wrote the word DUNCE in large letters on them; she pinned the dunce sheets on the back of each girl; then she made them stand up on the bench with their faces toward the wall and their backs toward the center of the room, books in hand, and they were ordered to study the lesson until they learned it.

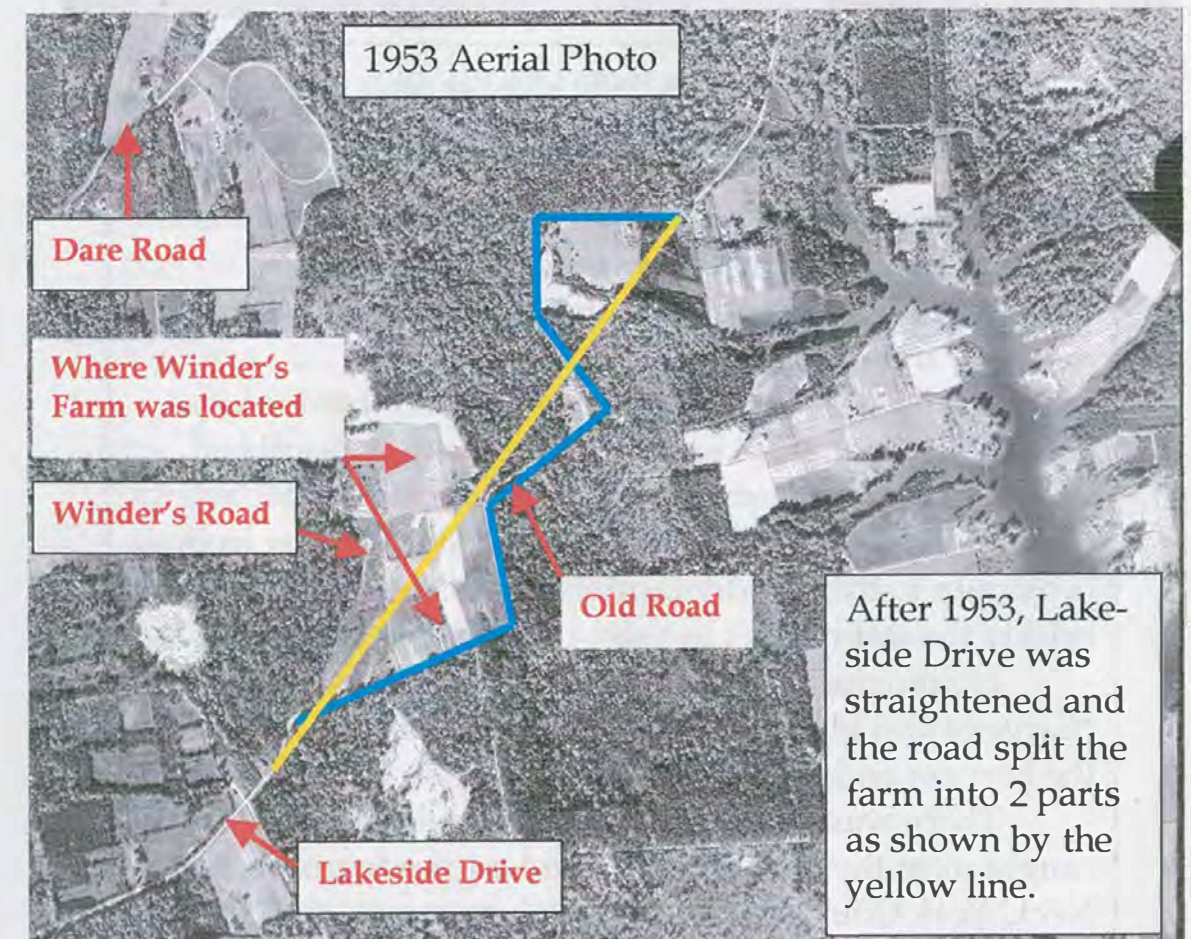
The two weeks came to a close and our time at Poor House Lane School ended. Mama and Aunt Harriet Smith finished picking off the crop of peanuts for Grandpa. We told Grandma, Grandpa, and Uncle Eddie "Goodbye" and we went home to Wormley's Creek.

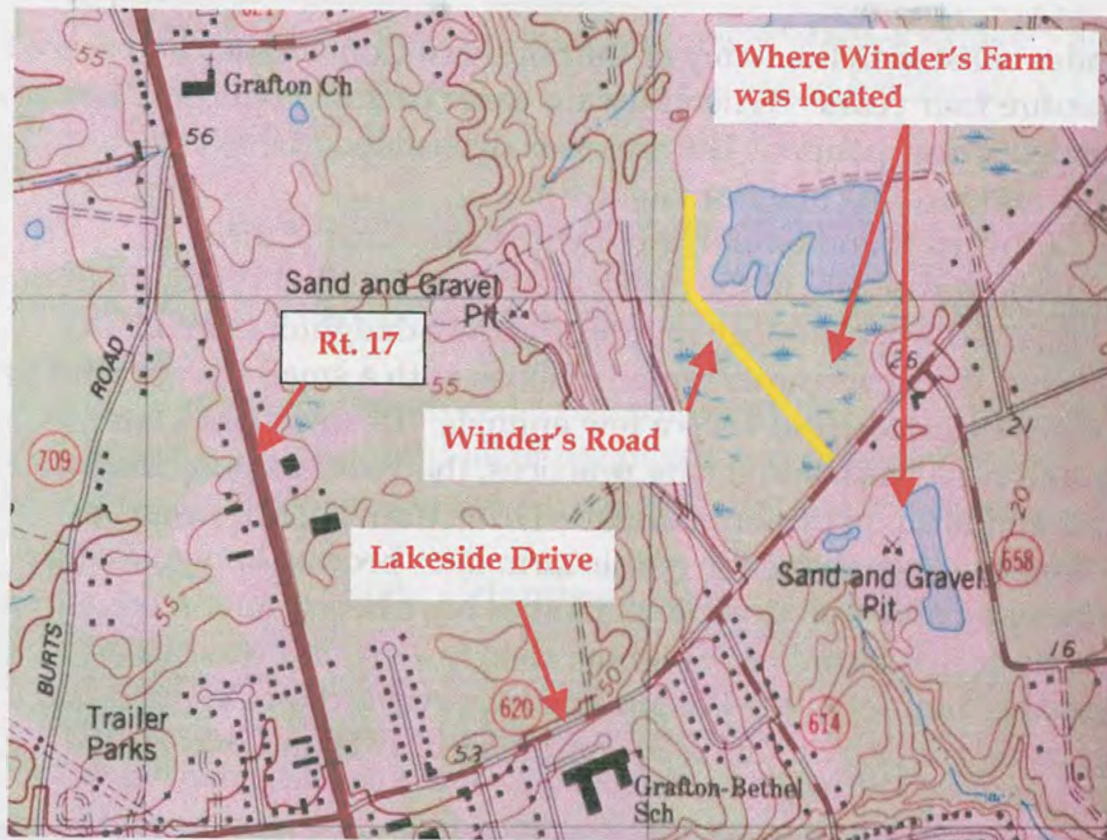
Winder Property

Following the death of her husband, Mary Ann Winder and younger children moved from Virginia's Eastern Shore to York County. Among the children was Edward Thomas Winder who was born in 1833. Mary Ann married Mr. Smith of Poquoson and the family was in the 1850 census. When the Civil War began Edward

Winder enlisted in the Army of the Southern Confederacy and served the entire four years. When Edward came back to Poquoson, he returned a near pauper. The area was devastated, the livestock taken, and farming at a near standstill.

Edward found employment with Capt. Curt (Curtis) Wainwright working in the oyster business. Edward Winder met and married Alice Lindsay in 1866, the only daughter of William J. Lindsay. The new couple rented a house with a small tract of land to produce their food and keep a few animals. Thirteen years later, through hard work and thrifty practices, the Winders purchased a home and farm on present Lakeside Drive from Patrick Reede, a black man. A small section of this farm later became known as the "Winder's Pond" development. Homes have been built on other sections of that farm. Alice Winder died in 1901 and was buried beside her mother in the Pescud family graveyard on Oriana Road (Reservoir property today). Edward died in 1914 and was buried next to his wife.





Excerpt from Old Fly
by Elizabeth Ironmonger

We took many trips to our Winder grandparents' home in Fish Neck where we were always warmly received. Old Fly, hitched to the farm wagon, was our means of transportation.

It seemed that "Fly" too, understood that we were going to Grandpa's place where he was always rubbed down and fed an extra portion of corn and hay. He would quicken his gait when he rounded the Burt Corner in close proximity to the Winder farmhouse and he would trot briskly the last mile.

Helping us down from the wagon, Grandpa took charge of Old Fly and made him comfortable by removing the harness and feeding him.

There was a severe snowstorm in February 1899 that caught us at the home of our Winder grandparents in Fish Neck, York County.

Right early on the morning in question, as we sat around the breakfast table, my mother made the suggestion that it would be a good time to take us children out of school for one day and (she and we) spend that day with her parents. My father offered no objections to such a plan; he would soon be going down the creek to work in his oyster bed while the family might enjoy a visit with the Winders.

The farmyard stock had been fed breakfast. Then Mother sent my brother, a nine-year-old lad, to hitch Old Fly, our good old family horse, to the wagon for this trip. Old Fly was ready too, for a drive this cold morning, to warm up his body.

Mother removed the wagon seat and spread a layer of corn shucks on the wagon floor, covering it with blankets. And then she tucked in her three children, gave Fly the command to go, and we were off to Grandpa's home.

It was a cold, gray morning (as I have already remarked) and snowflakes were gently falling before we arrived there. When we drew up in the farmyard, having taken a short cut and come through the woods, Grandpa met us and lifted us down from the wagon. Then he unhitched Old Fly, gave him a quick rubdown and put him in a stall with corn and hay for his dinner.

Mother, Brother, Sister, and I were warmly received by Grandmother who hastened to get us unbundled and comfortable. Then she set about preparing a delectable dinner.

The snowflakes continued to fall all of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and most of Friday without a break, and the snow piled up deeper and deeper. To children like us, it was a lovely sight. We were warm, sheltered, well fed and having a happy time at Grandmother's house.

Grandpa kept the fires going and the wood boxes filled with firewood and he looked after the farmyard

animals while Grandmother and Mother prepared the meals.

We children had the time of our lives!

My father came on Saturday, walking the five miles over snow clogged roads.

On Sunday mid-morning Old Fly was rubbed down and hitched to the wagon, ready to get on the road, while we three children and our parents settled down in the blankets on the floor of the wagon and thus we returned home, never to forget the snow storm of February 1899.

[Thelma Hansford states that Grandma Winder placed heated bricks in the bottom of the wagon to make the children comfortable on their journey home. Additionally, while the children had a delightful time, Ma had cried frequently all week. She was deeply concerned lest her canned fruit, at home, freeze and burst the jars. This would mean a loss of preserved food, but also the liquids could damage her quilts that were kept in the same closet. Fortunately, Ma found her home intact.]



Excerpt from Roads Traveled Long Ago

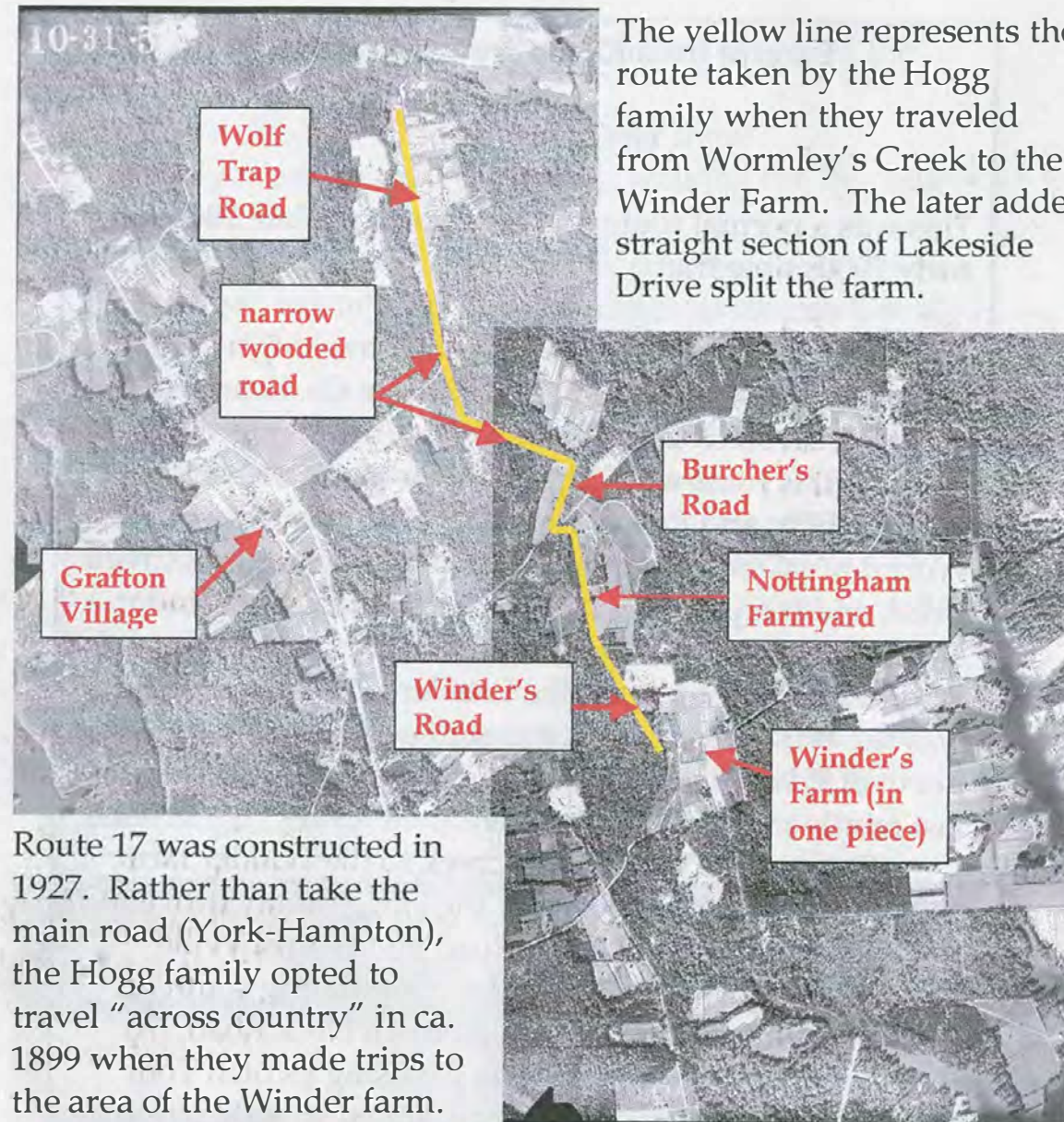
By
Thelma Hansford

This was a normal route for travelers in the late 1800s and early 1900s time frame.

Another route traveled, and now no longer accessible, was that from the Wormley's Creek area to the Dare or Fish Neck area. Bessie Hogg (Ironmonger) traveled this route as a child with her parents. Her parents, Billy and Fannie (Winder) Hogg, lived on Wormley's Creek Road, now called Old Wormley's Creek Road, and her grandparents, Edward and Alice Winder, lived on their farm in the area where Lakeside Drive and Winders Road intersect. The Winders Pond development was the Winder's farm. It was sold out of the family at the death of Edward Winder's granddaughters, who were the last family members to live there.

To get from Wormley's Creek to the Winder farm, traveling by horse and wagon, the Hogg family drove to the intersection of Wolf Trap Road and Hornsbyville Road, at Tampico (Hornsbyville). Continuing south on Wolf Trap Road they crossed Goodwin Neck Road. At the point of present-day Penrith Crossing (Scotch Tom Woods), the Wolf Trapp Road continued straight south as a narrow one lane road. The family traveled south through woods until they came to present-day Burcher Road where the Peter and Ruth Burcher house was located (just north of Dare Road). They crossed Dare Road on a one-lane road through Charlie Burcher's field, which is the present-day Lafayette Gun Club firing range. The family travel a little farther to the Winder farm (Winders Road).

The annotated maps on the next page depict the route described above by Thelma Hansford.



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Edward Thomas Winder and Alice Bird Lindsay, daughter of William J. and Mary Elizabeth McWilliams Lindsay. Alice was born 1847 and died in 1901. Ed was born in 1833 and died in 1914. Ed and Alice were married in 1866.

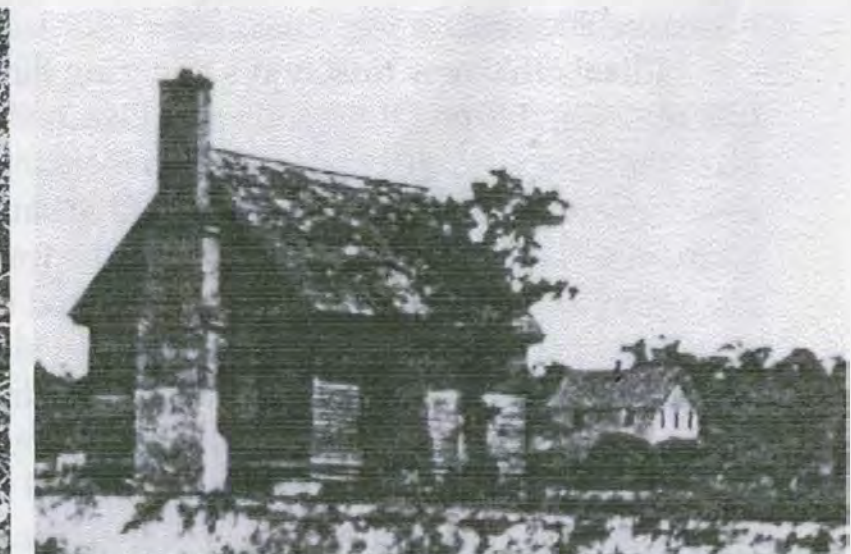


Alice Lindsay at age 4.



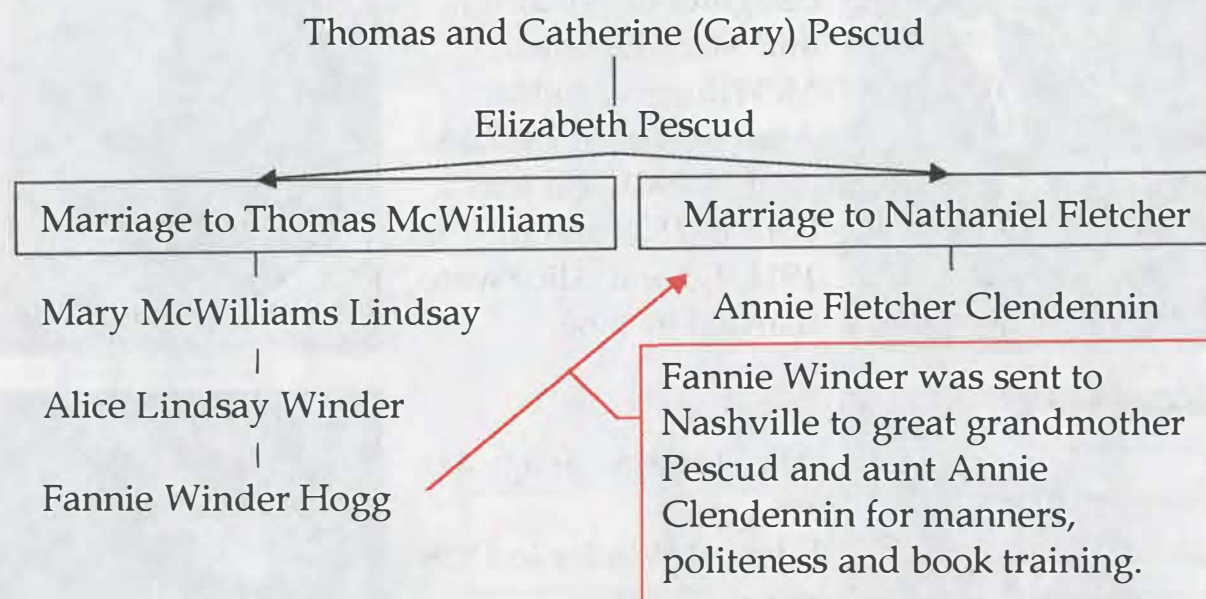
Edward Winder in 1908 at age 75.

Below: Tombstone for Alice Winder. The Winder home place off Lakeside Drive.



Some McWilliams/Fletcher Family History

This lineage chart will aid in the discussion that follows.



Previously, reference was made to Elizabeth Pescud (born 1804, died 1872) who was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine Pescud (page 6). Elizabeth married Thomas H. McWilliams. Elizabeth was a rather wealthy woman after the death of Thomas McWilliams. The McWilliams plantation (page 5), which became Elizabeth's plantation, was sold to Christopher Curtis, as there were no McWilliams children remaining in the area. Elizabeth then married Nathaniel Fletcher.

Elizabeth's new husband's lingering illness, perhaps tuberculosis, drained the family and Elizabeth lost her wealth. Elizabeth, her sick husband, and four Fletcher children moved to another farm, called Gibbs, located in that same area. After Nathaniel Fletcher died, Elizabeth and the four children moved to Hampton, and perhaps lived with a married daughter Fannie Barnes who lived in Elizabeth City County. Later, she became employed as a matron at Chowan College in North Carolina. Her three daughters were enrolled in the college and her son in public school in town. All three girls graduated, became private school tutors on plantations near Richmond, and wrote of their experiences during the Civil War.

One of the girls, Annie Fletcher, married a Confederate Soldier, with last name of Clendennin from Tennessee, who was a patient in a hospital in Richmond where she volunteered. Following the end of the Civil War, the Clendennin's moved to Nashville (his home). Later, when feeble, Elizabeth Pescud McWilliams Fletcher moved to live with the Clendennin's, although she was homesick for York County. Fannie Winder was sent to Nashville to great grandmother Pescud and aunt Annie Clendennin for manners, politeness and book training. Some York County locals thought Fannie was somewhat peculiar, but her conduct was the result of her exposure to education and social graces. Elizabeth Pescud McWilliams Fletcher died and was buried in Nashville. Fannie Winder returned and married William Hogg of Hornsbyville.

In addition to Nathaniel Fletcher, there were some other Fletchers.

A Fletcher family lived between Burt's Corner's and what would become Route 17, on the south side of Oriana Road. John, Zenobia and two other sisters lived there. All four were unmarried in 1868, and as a result, the home/family was referred to as the "old maid hole". Finally, one female married when she was elderly and lived childless near the Newport News on Route 17. The single-story house was abandoned and fell apart. Years later, when Route 17 was constructed (1927), a Mitchell family built a nice home on the land. When power lines were routed through that area, the Mitchell house was abandoned and moved unoccupied farther back in the woods. This area is behind the fast-food restaurants just south of Oriana Road and west of Route 17.

This area is shown on the 1953 aerial photo and the 1983 Survey map.

A Fletcher family at one time lived on the public road (Lakeside Drive) between Burt's Corner and the Winder's Farm.





Pescud - Mc Williams Home: Front and Back

Elizabeth Pescud - Daughter of Catherine Dudley Cary and Thomas Pescud. Born 1804, died 1872. Married Thomas H. McWilliams 1820.

Mary Elizabeth McWilliams - daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth Pescud McWilliams. Born 1829, died 1850. Married William J. Linsay 1844.



Hansford Landing

An excerpt from Roads Traveled Long Ago

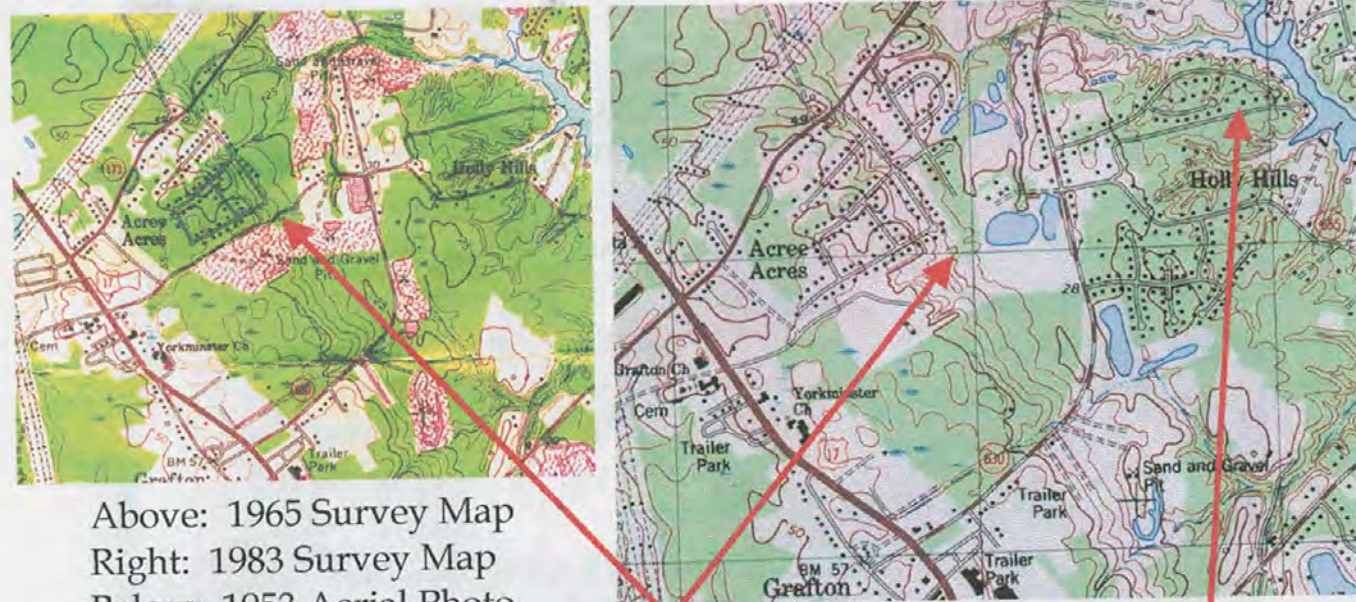
By
Thelma Hansford

At the head of Chisman's Creek was Hansfords Landing and a narrow road stretched from it, crossed Wolf Trap Road, and linked with Brick Church Road and thus over to Warwick Courthouse where other roads led to James River.

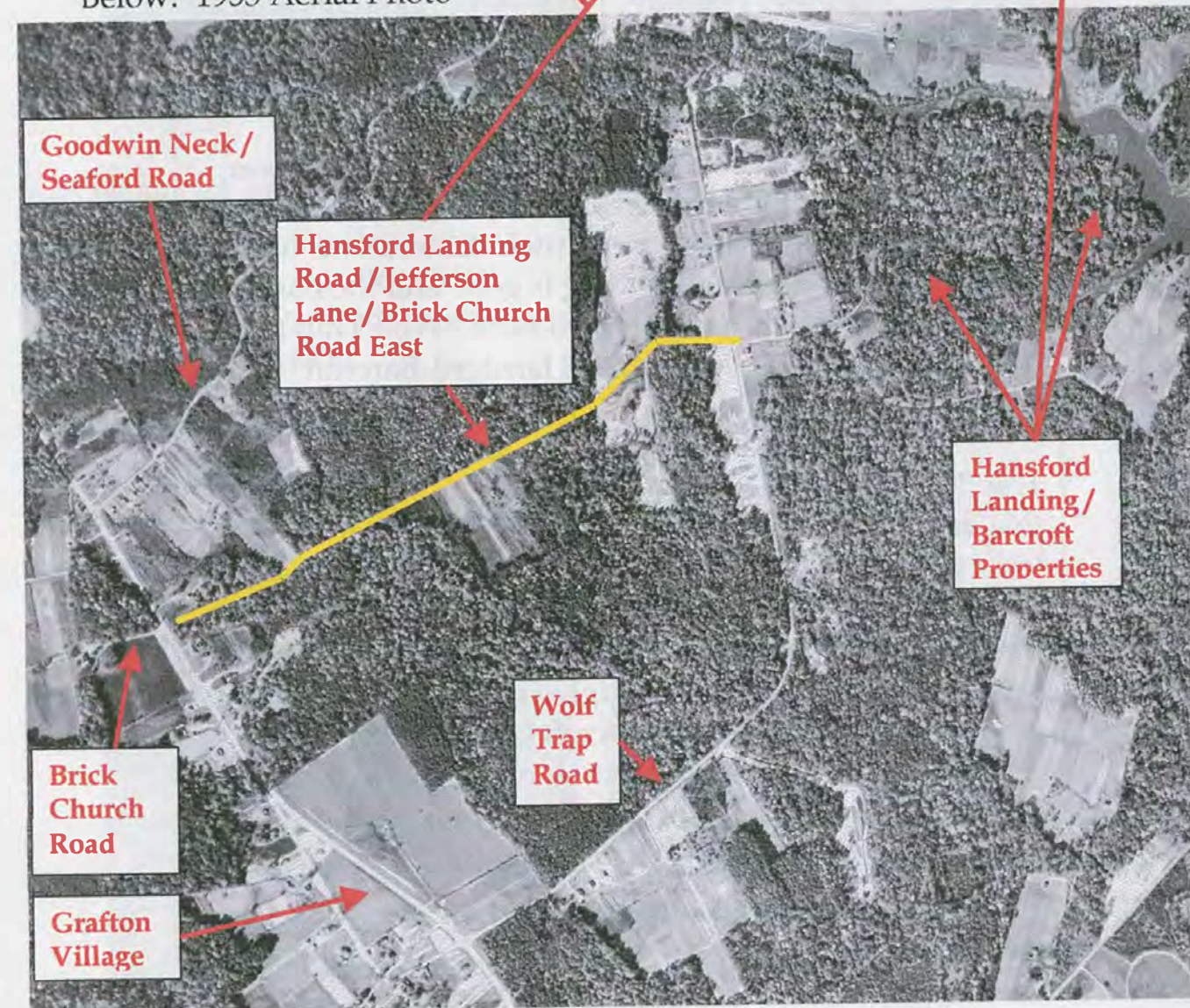
Thomas⁸ Hansford (Lewis⁷, Thomas⁶, Thomas⁵, Thomas⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², John¹ Henry) and his wife Sarah Patridge Hansford lived on Chisman's Creek. Their children established homes on the Wolf Trap, but after the Civil War and the extensive poverty in the rural Southland, these Hansford men, returning from the war, found employment in commercial areas. They moved to Hampton and Norfolk. None of their descendants live in York today. Hansford's Landing is gone and the Barcroft development covers the Hansford farm. Wolf Trap Road had been extended beyond the "Hansford-Barcroft" lane to Seaford Road by this time.

As the narrow Hansford-Barcroft road crossed Wolf Trap Road it proceeded west and today the residents in that area have a road sign reading Jefferson Lane. Jefferson Lane does not now extend to Rt. 17, but is closed beyond the homes. The County dog pounds and landfill were located in that area. The Hansford-Barcroft road extended to York-Hampton Highway (Rt. 17). At the point where the Hansford-Barcroft lane reached York-Hampton Highway was directly across from Brick Church Road. Chisman's Creek (and thus the York River) and James River were equally accessible to these hard working natives.

Maps showing Hansford Landing are on the next page.



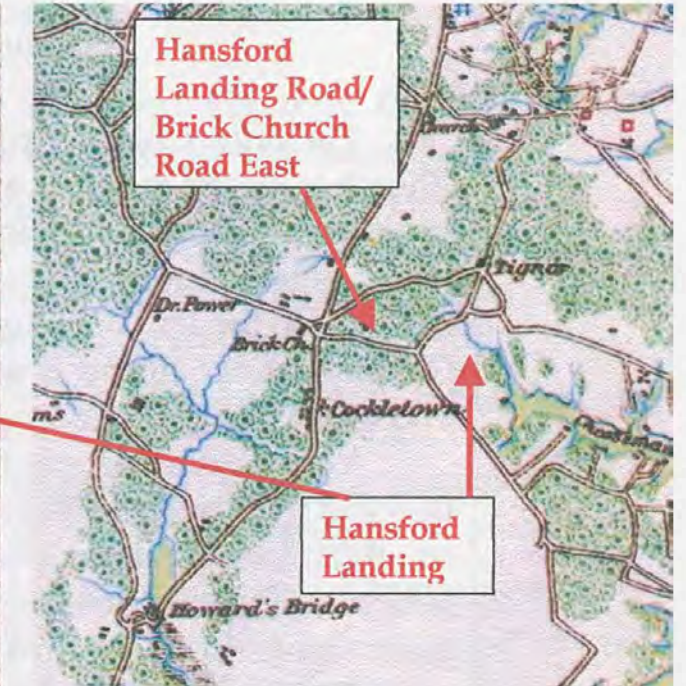
Above: 1965 Survey Map
Right: 1983 Survey Map
Below: 1953 Aerial Photo



1999 Aerial Photo



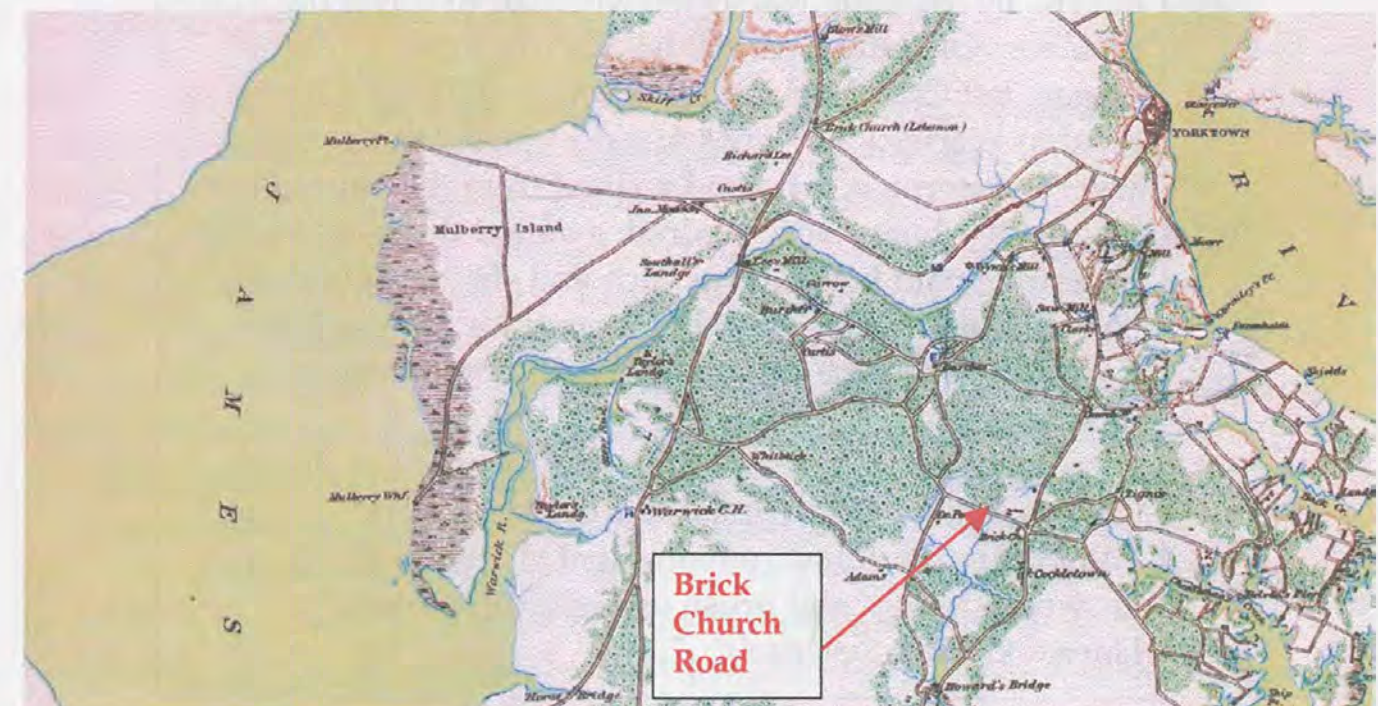
1862 McClellan Map



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Brick Church Road West

At one time Brick Church Road was a main thoroughfare to the west to the James River from Cockletown. Shown below is a ca. 1862 McClellan map, which shows this thoroughfare.



Excerpt from Roads Traveled Long Ago

By
Thelma Hansford

The Brick Church Road west of Grafton Christian Church is closed to traffic and is overgrown with vegetation. There is still Brick Church Road but it stretches only one block, extending from Rt. 17 west to the entrance to the Parish House for Grafton Christian Church. At one time this was a main thoroughfare to Warwick County and more especially to James River.

York County people had no large plantations, but they did tend tracts of 30 to 200 acres. Those men with small farms also relied upon the water for their livelihood. James River was utilized equally with York River. This meant travel from one area to another for work.

The mode of travel was crude and slow. People walked many miles often early in the morning and late at night. Some rode bicycles, but dirt roads were very rugged and rough.

There was a middle-aged woman who lived in Crab Neck long ago who helped supplement her husband's income by assisting watermen who had to travel the distance. On Saturdays she hitched the horse to the wagon, left Crab Neck and proceeded via Brick Church Road to Warwick County. At a designated meeting place several watermen, who had walked from the James River where their boats were moored, awaited this woman. The watermen paid her 25 cents each and she brought them back to York County and their homes for the weekend. Perhaps the reverse situation occurred on Monday mornings.

At one time the west and south sections of Brick Church Road were alive with farms, homes and outbuildings but now remain silent. Graveyards are overgrown with trees and brush or under the water of Harwoods Mill Reservoir.

The Nottingham and Curtis Farms
(Andersons and Meeting House Tracts)

An interesting strip of land is west of York-Hampton Road (Rt. 17) between Fort Eustis Blvd. and Brick Church Road. Bailey Seaton Tabb married Nancy Moss, granddaughter of Edward Moss. Edward Moss died in 1789. The Tabbs came into possession of the 175 acres (she inherited it). John Lester, Edmund Tabb Cheesman, and Colonel John Goodwin bound the tract on the west, which in the past belonged to John Goodwin. Also, there was a Pescud tract in the same area. Goodwin land went to Moss through marriages and inheritances.

The diagram below represents the John Goodwin family relations and descendants.

James Goodwin (of Goodwin Neck)



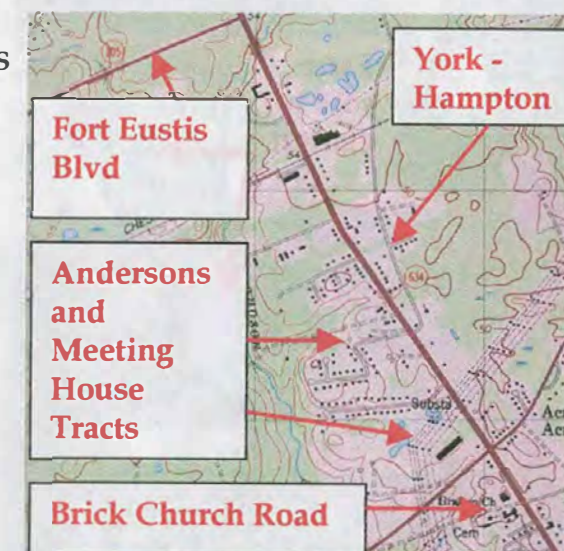
Peter Goodwin/Rebecca Tiplady



Peter Goodwin/Mary Calthorpe



John Goodwin (born 1737)



Bailey and Nancy Tabb sold this strip of land to Richard Garrett, Jr. In addition to the subject tract Richard Garrett owned land in several locations in Yorkhampton Parish (discussed separately), and also in Ohio and Kentucky. Richard Garrett, Jr. died in 1802 leaving these tracts of land to his family members.

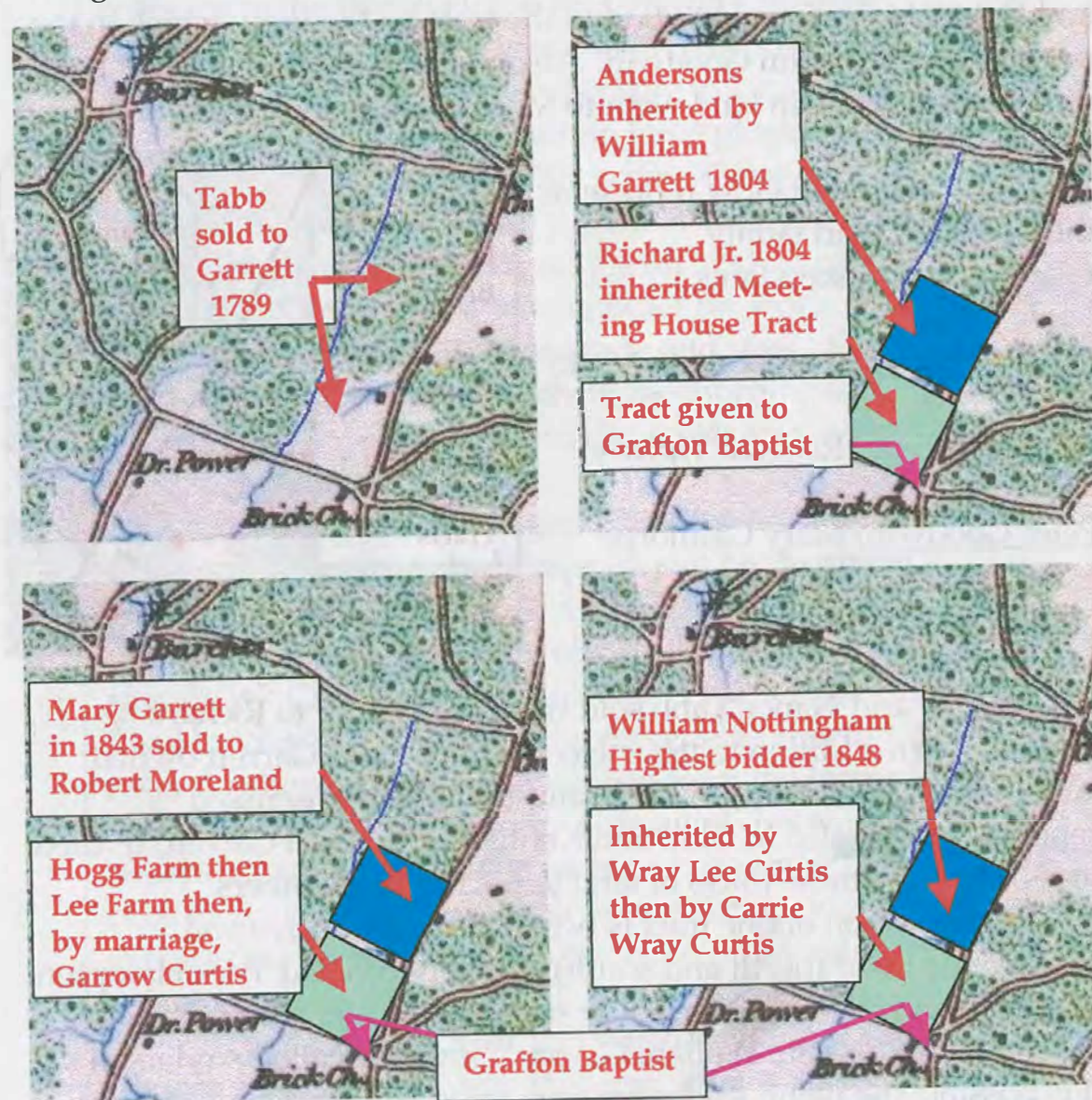
The location of one tract is between Greene Drive and Terrebonne Road (north and south) and between Old York Hampton Highway and the Poquoson River stream (east and west). Richard Garrett left to his son, William Garrett, "my land called Anderson's". It is possible the name Anderson originated from previous owners.

William (born 1783) and Mary Garrett (wife) had no children. The tract "Anderson's" went up for sale, and Mary Garrett entered into an agreement for the sale of the property to Robert B. Moreland.

Moreland died before totally paying for the land. The tract went up for sale to the highest bidder in an 1848 decree of the York County Court.

William A. Nottingham's bid of \$950 was the highest bid. This tract became the Nottingham Farm. The Nottingham house stands behind the Virginia RV Sales.

The charts below show the procession of the property as it changed hands, beginning ca. 1789 to ca. 1848.



One daughter, Elizabeth married Edward Dunn, and part of the farm became a development called "Dunnmore". Another daughter, Leonora (Lee), married Charles Moore and lived in the house that is

now the "Red Cross" building across Route 17 from the Virginia RV Sales.

The location of another tract is between Terrebonne and Brick Church Road (north and south) and between Old York Hampton Highway and the Poquoson River stream (east and west). Richard Garrett left to his son, Richard Jr., "my land called Meeting House". This name "Meeting House" came about by Richard Jr. giving to the Baptist a small tract on which (the first) Grafton Baptist Church was built. (When the Campbellites broke from Grafton Baptist, they moved across the road to acreage given them by John Curtis who had purchased the Edward Moss estate.)

Richard Garrett, Jr. made his home on that farm and then sold to Hogg; later a Lee family purchased it. Miss Lula Lee married Gallow Curtis and the farm became their home. Their only child Wray Lee Curtis had only one child, Carrie Wray Curtis, who inherited the farm.



The Nottingham House



Lee Nottingham Moore House

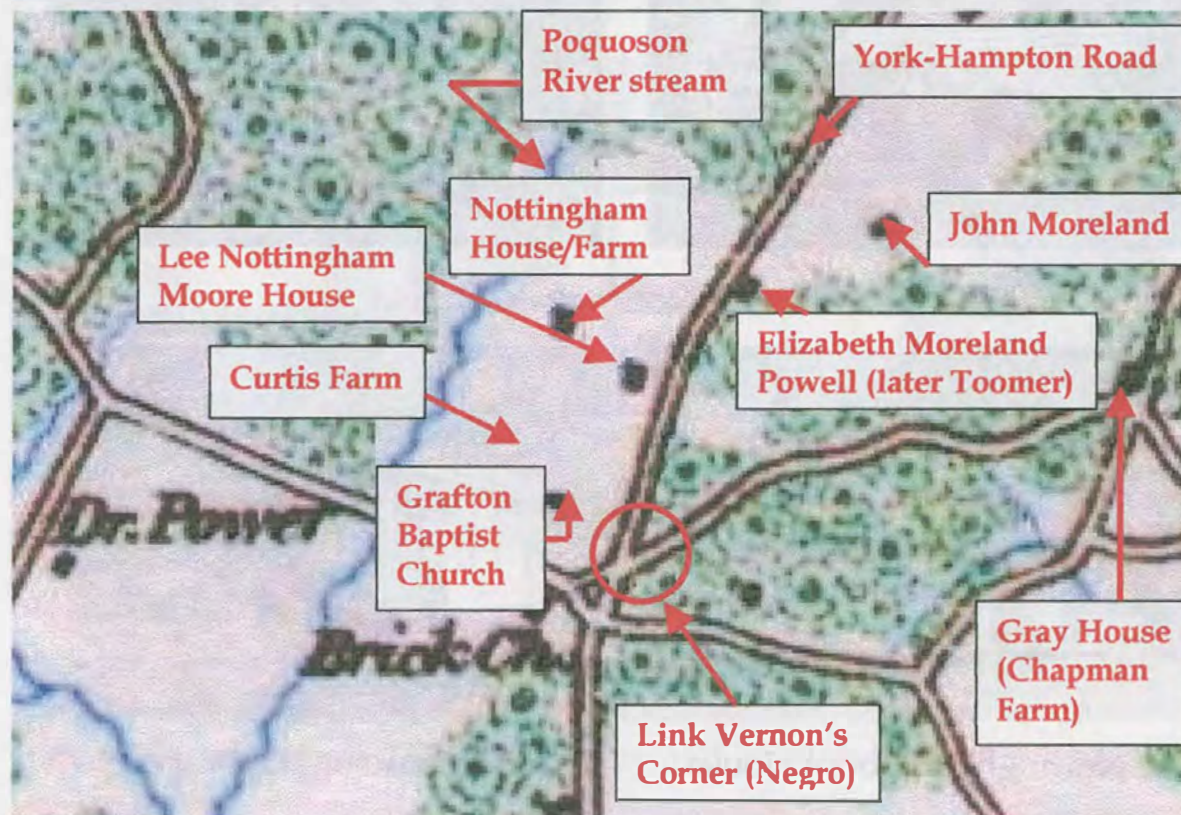
Farmer House on the Property

The 1860 York County Census list the following:

Name	Age	Name	Age
William A. Nottingham	36	Elizabeth Ironmonger	13
Elizabeth Nottingham	31	Mary O. Ironmonger	11
Leonora Nottingham	12		
William Nottingham	11		
Elizabeth Nottingham	9		
Martha E. Nottingham	7		
Joseph Nottingham	4		
Julia Nottingham	2		

James Ironmonger, who bought Back Creek Plantation in 1820 and died in 1853, left a will. This will, described on page 183 of *Ironmonger and Connections Updated* by Elizabeth Ironmonger, lends to granddaughters Elizabeth and Octavia (daughters of William C.) \$200 each, "provided they do not marry a son or sons of William A. Nottingham". Neither granddaughter married a Nottingham.

Nottingham and Curtis Farms are shown on an 1862 Gen. McClellan map below.



Dr. Robert Power and C.L. (Charlie) Burcher Farms

A prominent person who appears on all the Civil War maps is that of Dr. Robert Power. He must have been well known. A near neighbor to the Power Farm was the Charlie Burcher Farm. The map below shows the location of their farms in the late 1800s along with the Pescud Farm. During that time many of the families were related by marriage. One such family was the Hogg family of Hornsbyville who was related to the Burchers. The families visited often. On the next page is a story by Elizabeth Ironmonger relating such a visit and provides a description of the Powers property in the process.



Dr. Power's Colonial Home

By

Elizabeth Ironmonger

During my childhood my family was closely associated with the family of Cousin Sallie and Cousin Charlie Burcher, whose home was between Grafton and Oriana, Virginia. They lived in York County not very far from the Warwick County line.

There were nine children in the Burcher family. The older boys, Leven and Charlie, were playmates of my brother, Eddie Hogg (William Edward Hogg) while I enjoyed the friendship of two of the girls, Nannie and Neva, who were near my age.

We attended the same school and often my brother and I were overnight guests of the Burcher children. Sometimes we spent the weekend with them. At other times my family spent Sunday visiting in the Burcher home.

The Dr. Power plantation was located near the home of the Burchers, and as we drove along the highway that led by two sides of the farm, we would often see a peacock and several peahens along with other farmyard fowl wandering around the yard. It was most exciting to see the peacock strut, and we were thrilled as he spread his tail feathers into a fan-like position which showed to perfection the lovely iridescent spot on each overlapping feather.

Later, I recall, the Power family moved away from York County and two other Burcher families rented the farm and dwelling house. The mansion was large enough to accommodate both families.

While visiting the Burchers, sometimes we would go down the road a half-mile to the old Power plantation home. As children, we were curious about the many small houses in a section of the back yard, and we were told that these were the slave quarters of the plantation, dating back to pre-Civil War days. There were other dependencies besides the slave quarters.

There was a large kitchen built some distance from the manor house; a big smoke house where the meat was smoked, cured, and stored; a large dairy close to the kitchen, in a shady spot. Barns and a "necessary" house were located on another side of the plantation grounds.

On the south side of this big farmyard, a meadow stretched and big springs of water gushed forth from the ground in a spot at the base of a small hill. The white sand bubbled up in a dozen or more of the springs, which gave the appearance of boiling and the children called them "the boiling springs". The water flowed down a ravine and into a branch of the Poquoson River. In this cool, damp, shady setting a springhouse had been built and the families' supplies of milk, butter, cheese, and eggs were kept here, as this was before the day of ice refrigerators or electric iceboxes.

The dairy near the kitchen was used to store food cooked daily, and not as a real dairy; the milk house down by the springs being the building used for that purpose.

One of the last of the Power family to live at the Power Plantation was Dr. Frederick Power. There was a neat colonial-type house a short distance from the mansion house. We were told that this was the doctor's office, but we never entered this building as it was kept locked.

The mansion house was set back from the road two hundred yards in a grove of trees. It had a full basement and was two stories high above the basement. Broad steps with balustrades led up to the front door that opened into a large reception hall. There were two large rooms on one side of the reception hall, and one room on the other side, each having an open fireplace. At the end of the long hall there were one or two smaller family rooms.

A wide opened stairway led to the bedrooms on the second floor. Dormer windows on one big room of the second floor gave additional light and circulation of air.

There were three large chimneys to the house, which

provided the big fireplaces in many rooms, as this was the only method of heating the home in winter.

Once I attended, with my father, a benefit turkey supper for Grafton Christian Church, held in the Power home, long before the day of church social halls.

The many rooms on both the first and second floors were filled with people. The tables were laid in the large formal dining room and in the family room. Guests moved about in the great hall, parlor, and library, conversing with each other. The ladies were escorted to the second floor rooms to lay off their wraps and hats. As one group partook of the festive meal and moved on, others filled in, around the tables, until all had been served. It was an evening of social activity as well as a benefit for the church. The commodious mansion house made a fine setting for such an occasion.

Much later the house was destroyed by fire.

So far as I know, there was no family burial ground set aside on the plantation. The following graves marked by tombstones are in the cemetery of Grafton Christian Church, at Grafton, Virginia:

Abbie M., wife of Robert H. Power

Born October 10, 1824

Died January 4, 1877

Robert H. Power M.D.

Born January 12, 1824

Died February 25, 1897

Dr. Robert T. Elmer Power, son of

Dr. Robert H. and Abbie Power

Born April 30, 1849

Died January 24, 1895

L. Belle Power

Born August 2, 1840

Died April 13, 1925

Mrs. D.B. Power

Born June 1, 1823

Died January 2, 1897



The 1953 aerial photo (left) shows the outline of the remnants of Brick Church Road, both the north side and the west side, and also a portion of Oriana Road. The former locations of the Power, Burcher and Pescud Farms are also shown. The same areas are also shown below on the 1983 Survey and 1999 color aerial photos. Denbigh Blvd. includes part of Brick Church Road (north side). The remnants of the west side can be seen.



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Kentucky Farms

The Sheild family owned Kentucky Farms. Bolivar Sheild was Clerk of the York County Court. He is buried on this farm, but his grave was destroyed. This farm is shown in the two photos below.



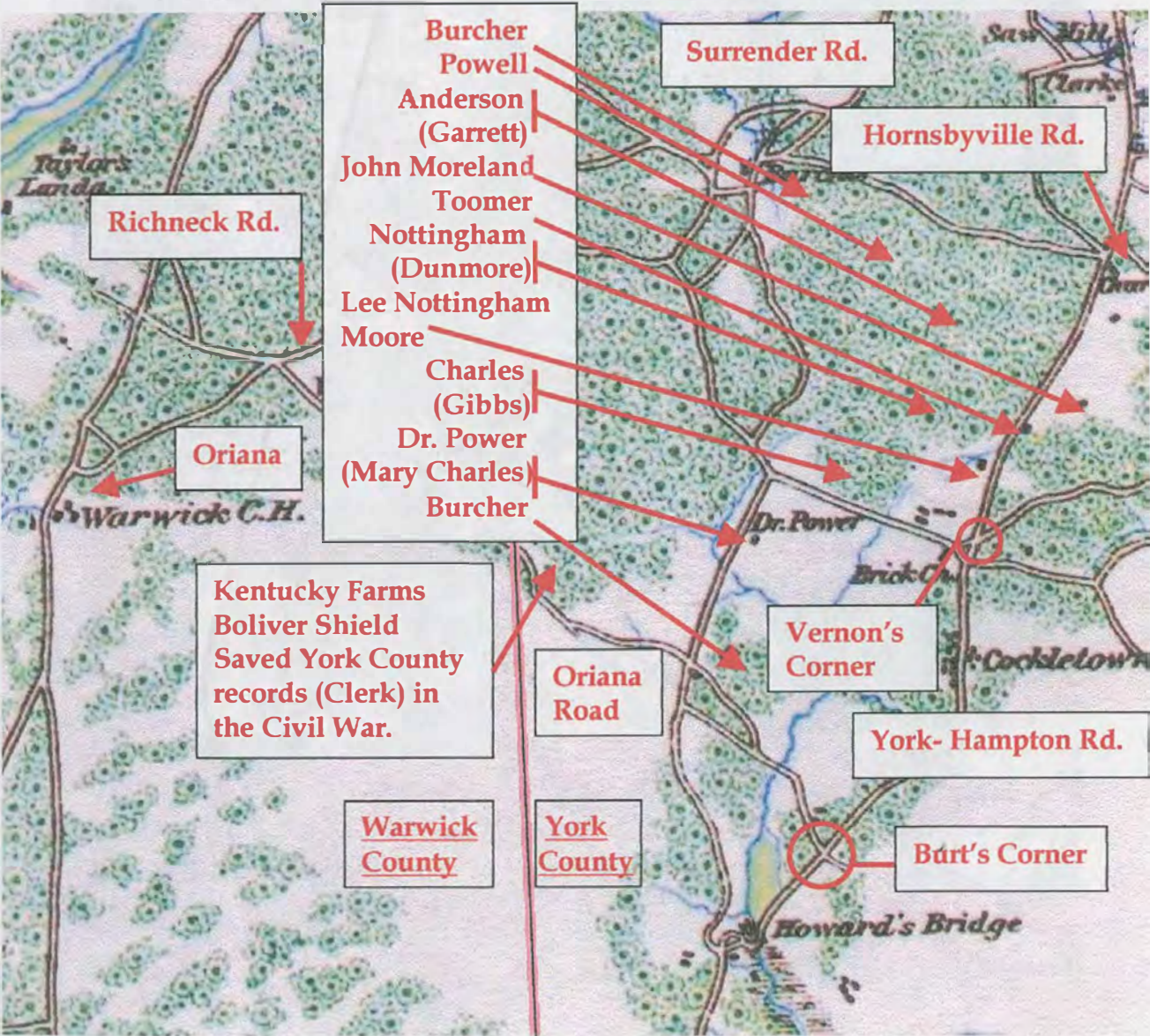
Excerpt from How Our Records Are Kept
by
Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger

Our forefathers kept records in their time and they have come down to us as priceless treasures. The York County records, the second oldest English records in our country are most highly prized, and are unbroken from 1634 to the present time. People from all over the United States come to Yorktown, Virginia to search those early records for valuable data. By a strange twist of circumstances they were not destroyed during the Civil War, as were so many County records in Virginia. The County Clerk, Mr. Boliver Sheild carefully removed the record books from the Clerk's Office in Yorktown; wrapped them in a canvas boat-sail and placed them in a canoe at Yorktown Wharf from whence he carried them up York River toward West Point. From there he intended to take them overland to Richmond, the Capital of the Confederacy, for safekeeping. However, he was cut off from travel to Richmond by land, because of the advance of the Union

Army, which very soon burned the Capitol City. Mr. Sheild took the precious books, still wrapped in the boat-sail and stored them in an old icehouse somewhere in New Kent County, where they remained until the close of the war. Later they were returned to the archives of York County.

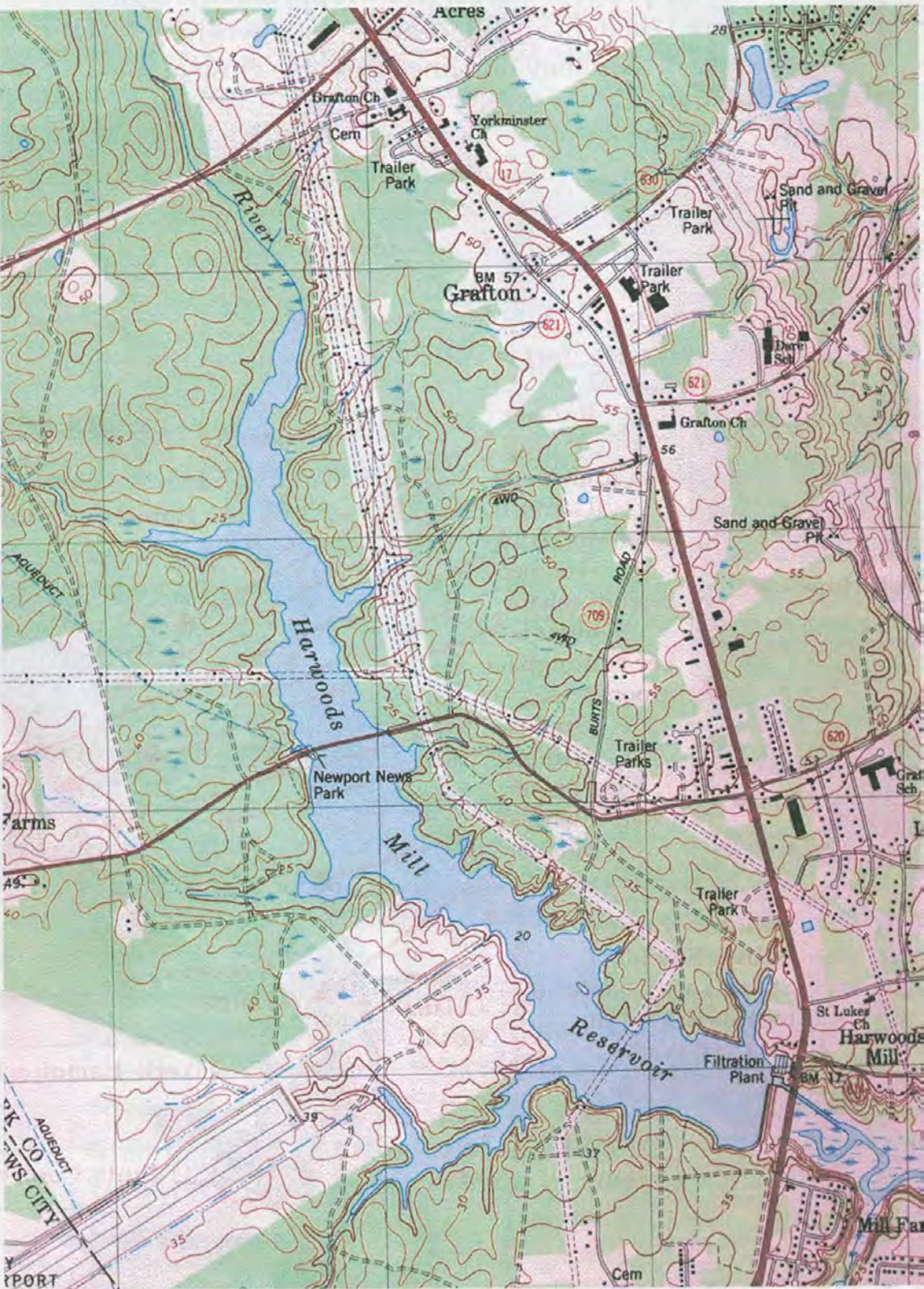
Summary Map

The map below provides an annotated summary showing some of the history of the property, farms and houses discussed previously.



Harwoods Mill Reservoir Lands

The area of detail for this discussion is shown on this map.



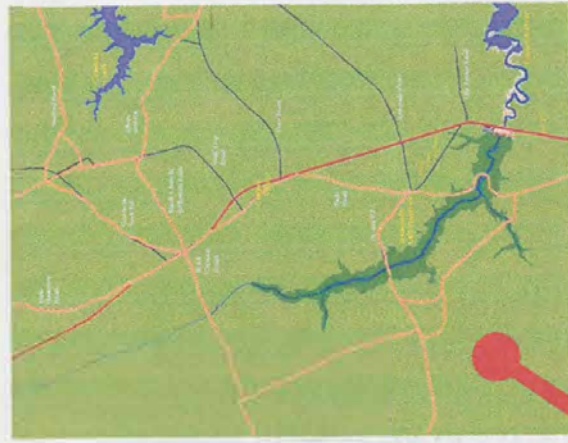
The Harwood area was originally part of the vast Howard tract owned before 1700. Elinor Howard (1690 – 1767) married John Chisman (1681 – 1728) and six children descended from this union. There were Sheild intermarriages with Howard and Chisman families.

At the stream’s southern turn to the east there are several branches and apparently the water flow was conducive to construction of mills. Many of the landowners owned mills. Some of the old roads surrounding the reservoir basin are shown as light broken lines on the geological survey map (previous page), and some of these match very closely with the roads on the McClellan maps. Some present day constructions cover portions of the old roads, e.g. the reservoir water and airport runway. Nevertheless, the resemblances are very close. Another close match are the names on the Old Dominion Land Company map and those in the York Co. deed books. In ca. 1919 these landowners were in the process of selling their property to the Newport News Light and Water Company.

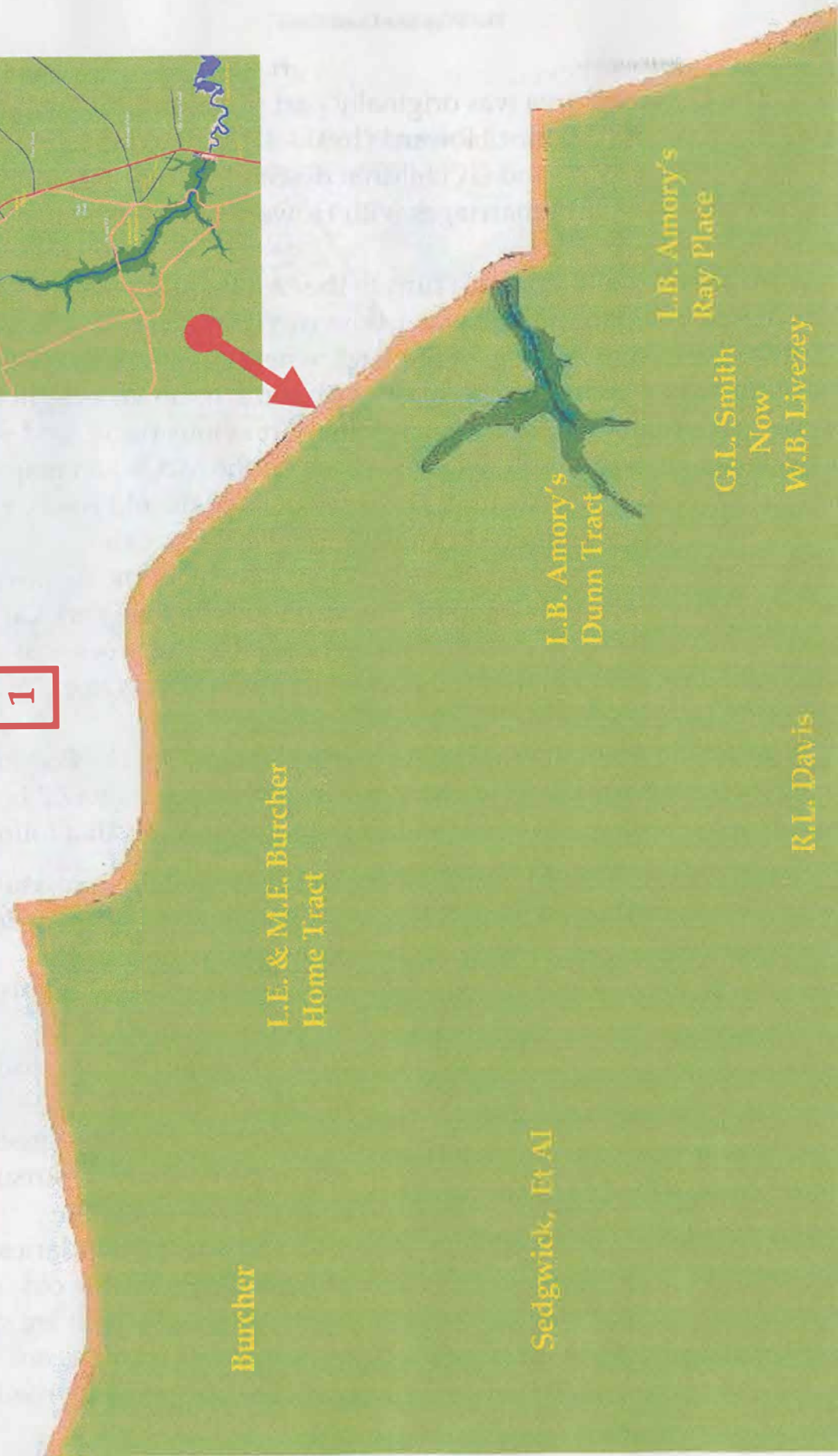
As an aid in identifying landowners surrounding the Poquoson River stream during the 1919 years, the map shown below will be used as a reference chart to individual enlarged sections that follow.



This map contains a mixture of old and new details in order to show the changes and augment references to 1919 owners surrounding the reservoir basin. Some roads and bridges have been abandoned. The dark green surrounding the blue stream shows the extent of the reservoir water boundaries. The gold lines are the old roads some of which are still in use. The black lines are abandoned or existing roads.



1

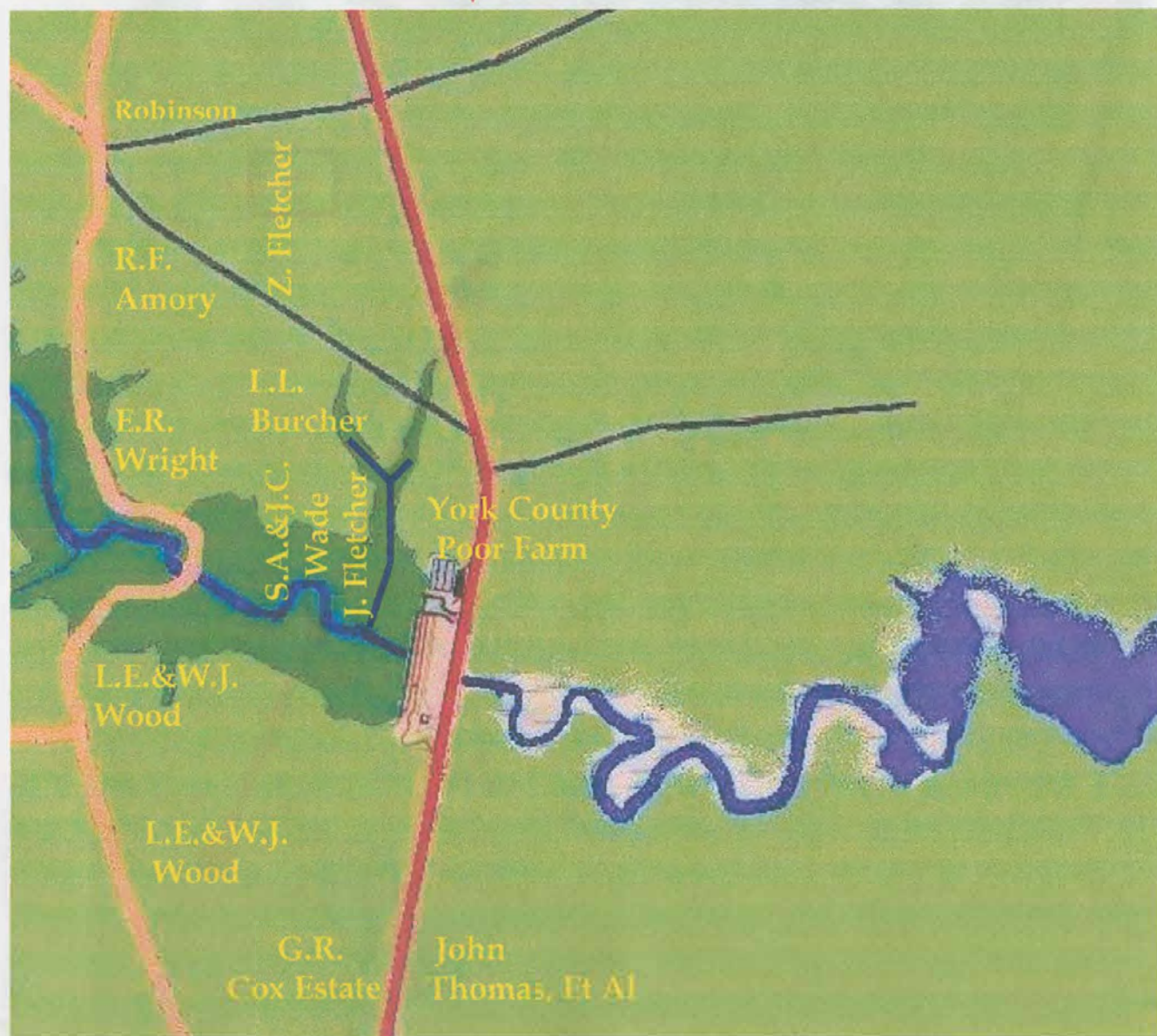


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3

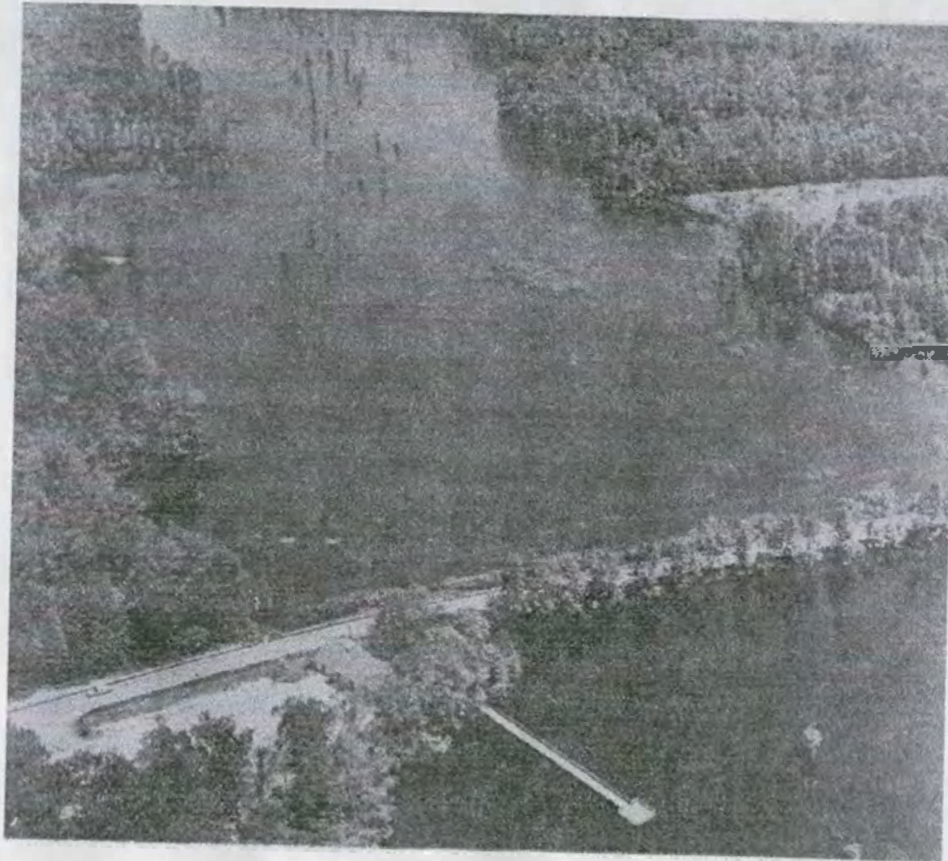


4



Harwoods Mill Reservoir

View is northeast across the Oriana Road bridge when the reservoir was drained ca. 1980.



View is northeast across the Oriana Road bridge when the reservoir was refilled.

The 300-acre reservoir was constructed ca. 1918 when the City of Newport News made arrangements to have a dam built across a swamp at the mouth of the Poquoson River. A treatment plant was added in 1942 with Newport News Waterworks having operational responsibility. In 1980 when the reservoir was drained, several items of historical significance were discovered even after the intervening approximate 62 years.

- Evidence that the remains of the old Howard's Bridge along with part of a hard surfaced road were found about where the electrical power lines cross the reservoir just west of the dam at Route 17. The maps below show the location of the Howard's Bridge. The red arrow on the Survey Map shows the location of the power lines, and thus the location of Howard's Bridge. Note also that the Survey Map shows broken lines on the north and south banks where the earlier roads were located and they seem to line-up with the Howard's Bridge crossing.



McClellan Map, ca. 1865

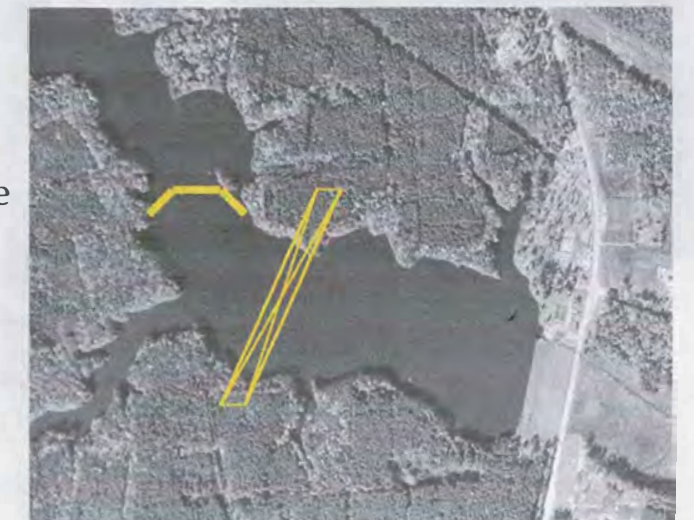


A combination map



1983 Geological Survey Map

- The remnants of an old curved dam that crossed the water at apparently a narrow spot (at a lower water level) is shown by the yellow lines on this 1953 aerial photo. Also shown, the power lines, which were not in place in 1953. A 1999 aerial photo of the reservoir is on the next page.



A 1999 Aerial Photograph of the Harwoods Mill Reservoir



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Howard's Bridge

In a drawing by Frank Leslie, Union soldiers are shown moving north across Howard's Bridge during the Civil War.⁴ Note the bridge on the left and the mill on the right. Further detail can be seen in the colored close-up of the bridge area shown below.



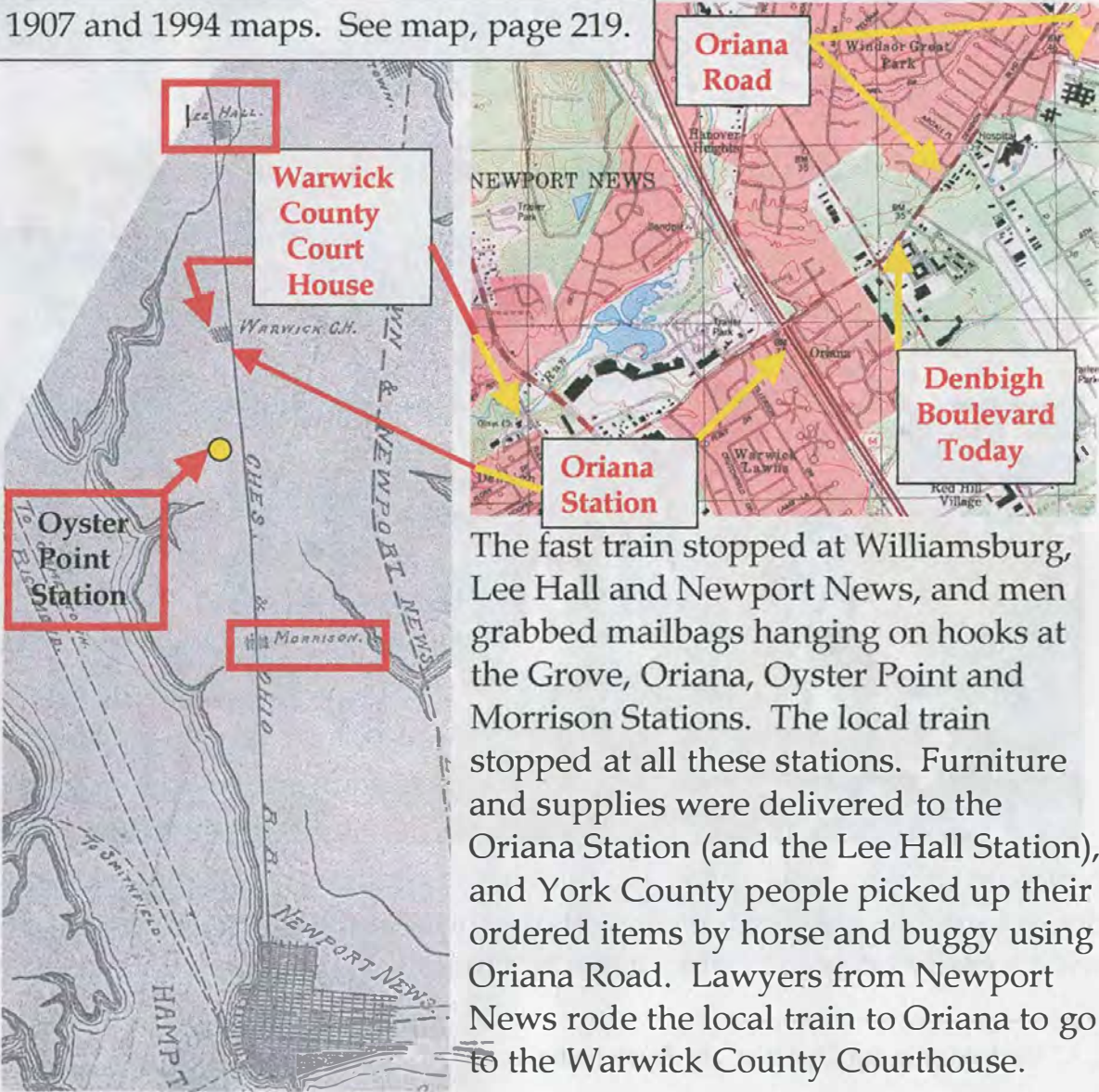
Notes on the McClellan Map 1 states that "From Howard's Bridge ½ mile down fordable, also fordable just above the bridge – Stream from 30 to 60 feet wide – easily bridged. Banks generally marshy with occasional hard places."

⁴ "The Soldier in our Civil War", by Frank Leslie

Oriana Station

Before closing out this section on the Cockletown Corridor some explanation about Oriana needs to be provided. The previous pages provided descriptions and maps concerning history and location of the east end of this road, called Oriana, that led into the corridor. Where did the road lead when it left the corridor heading west? The obvious answer is that Oriana Road led to Oriana Station. Oriana was located at the intersection of the railroad track and the terminus of the "old" Oriana Road. Oriana was a railroad station, much like the Lee Hall and Morrison Stations, and located on the same side (west) of the railroad tracks as that of Warwick County Courthouse.

1907 and 1994 maps. See map, page 219.



The fast train stopped at Williamsburg, Lee Hall and Newport News, and men grabbed mailbags hanging on hooks at the Grove, Oriana, Oyster Point and Morrison Stations. The local train stopped at all these stations. Furniture and supplies were delivered to the Oriana Station (and the Lee Hall Station), and York County people picked up their ordered items by horse and buggy using Oriana Road. Lawyers from Newport News rode the local train to Oriana to go to the Warwick County Courthouse.

York-Hampton Highway

Importance of Roads

In the early days of York County, the people located on large tongues of land that projected between the creeks and rivers, such areas as Crab, Fish and Goodwin Necks. Generally, a person or married couple would obtain a large land area and succeeding generations of that family would settle on that same land area. This is the case as seen in considering the subjects of the previous sections that included Crab Neck (and other locations within Seaford), Tampico, Harris Grove and some of the Cockletown Corridor. When large plantations were established, the paths that connected these homesteads became roads, and these sometimes became major thoroughfares. Each of the previous sections referenced the York-Hampton Highway.

The York-Hampton Highway connected Hampton, with its vast access to the water, and Yorktown and many locations in between with close access to the water. In later years, as inland farms were established and commercial centers were started, the importance of the roads increased. With long distances to be traveled by horse and buggy, halfway houses were constructed. In Tabb there was a halfway house at the junction of Poquoson and the York-Hampton Highways, shown by the arrow on this 1862 McClellan Map.



Where the York-Hampton Highway merged with Fish Neck, Oriana, Brick Church, Crab Neck and Tampico Roads, a village came into being known as Cockletown and later, Grafton.



Another halfway house was located between Williamsburg and Yorktown, shown by the red arrow on the 1862 McClellan Map.

The original Hansford family settled in upper York County in the Felgates Creek area. The youngest son of the immigrant Major John Hansford was Charles Hansford who married Elizabeth Folliott, daughter of the Reverend Edward Folliott. One of their children, Martha Hansford, married Samuel Hill and they operated the ordinary or tavern halfway. Samuel and Martha died before mid-life leaving three children. Martha's brother continued operation of the halfway house ordinary. The location of the halfway house is within the confines of the Yorktown Naval Weapon Station, and a tea-room on the premises was named "Halfway House".

As York-Hampton Highway proceeded north toward the county seat, another commercial center came into being. This commercial center sprang-up where roads were linked together roads that serviced Goodwin Neck, Crab Neck, Old Wormley Creek Road, Marlbank and Tampico. Perhaps, the first entrepreneur for this area was William Hogg who had a store at the junction of York-Hampton Highway and Hornsbyville (Crab Neck) Road. William, born in 1785, acquired 59 acres in that area in 1830. Another prominent person, William E. Goffigan (b.1841, d. 1909), established and operated a large mercantile business in that same area. He

married into the wealthy and politically well-known Cooke family. The Goffigan's owned a spacious residence adjoining the business establishment that included a saloon. Their complex was called Goffigan Gardens.

There was a vast area not bounded by the York or James Rivers that straddled the Warwick and York County line. The area was well populated by farmers, lumbermen and sawyers. Names of some of the residents who populated this area were Burcher, Provoo, Powell, Wilson, Fox and Wood as shown by the 1850 census.

The York-Hampton Highway was an important factor to even the far inland residents. A tract of land in that area, that is one subject of this section, belonged to Robert Wood.

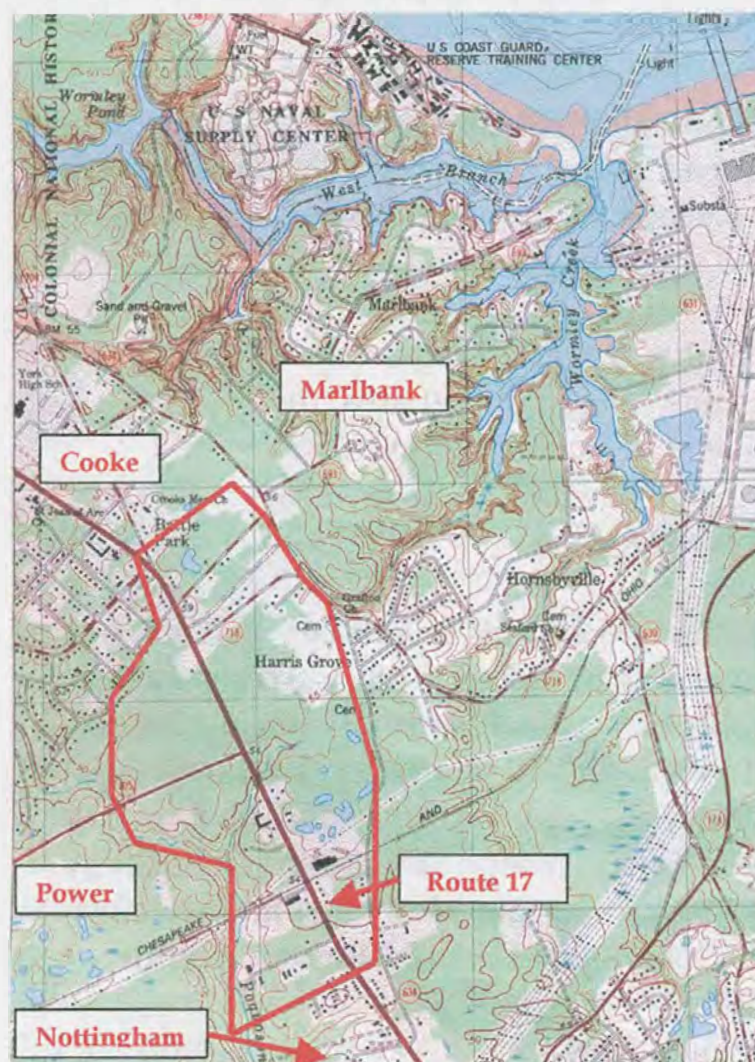
Robert Wood Family / Thomas DeAlba

Robert Wood was thirty-eight and his wife, Mary, twenty-six in the 1850 census. Robert's will was probated in 1893. To son Robert he gave land bounded as follows: east and south by Bogar, Cooke and Nottingham, and west by Power. To son Simon land bounded north and west by Power, east by Joseph Wood, and south by Thomas and Nathaniel Wood. To son Joseph land bounded north by Chisman, east and south Bogar, Cooke and Marlbank, and west by Robert Wood. To daughter Delilia Ann DeAlba land lying on the main York-Hampton Road.

On the next page is a map showing the area of discussion enclosed in the red border. It must be remembered that Route 17 and Fort Eustis Boulevard did not exist at the time.

Delilia Ann Wood married Thomas DeAlba who was from Italy. A daughter from this marriage, Mary, married Frank Forshing who was a son of Peter and Lucy Forshing of Old Wormley Creek Road. Soon after entering the road from Hornsbyville Road there is a slight hill, which for years was called Forshing's Hill. Thomas DeAlba, a son of Thomas and Delilia, married Emma Davis and lived on lower Seaford Road as described in the section on Crab Neck. His brother, San Francisco (Tick) married Adelaide Davis Crockett (a widow) and they lived at the south end of Crockett Road. Two sons

of Tick and Adelaide, Harry and Bernard, lived in Seaford. Tick and his brother, Thomas, were commercial fishermen.



Another daughter of Thomas and Delilia, Annie, married Edward Carmines and they lived on Wildey Road (see Crab Neck section). Edward and William F. Ironmonger engaged in the pound fishing business. James, a son of Thomas and Delilia, married Clara Davis, a sister of Emma and Adelaide, and lived on the corner of Seaford and Wildey Roads and later in downtown Seaford on Seaford Road. Joseph, a son of Thomas and Delilia, never married and lived on the DeAlba home place in Harris Grove.

When Joseph DeAlba died after 1922, this Wood-DeAlba tract was sold to Everett and Olive Gray and inherited by their daughter, Dorothy Gray King.

A daughter of Robert and Mary Wood, Mahala Wood Cox, sold inherited land to Mary (Molly) Harris, wife of Thomas Harris (Harris Grove). Descendents of the Harris family sold this tract of land for development of Patriot Shopping Center and Settler's Landing.

Robert, son of Robert and Mary Wood, operated a blacksmith shop on the York-Hampton Highway in the Harris Grove village. Robert's mother-in-law was Florence Hogg Hansford, a daughter of

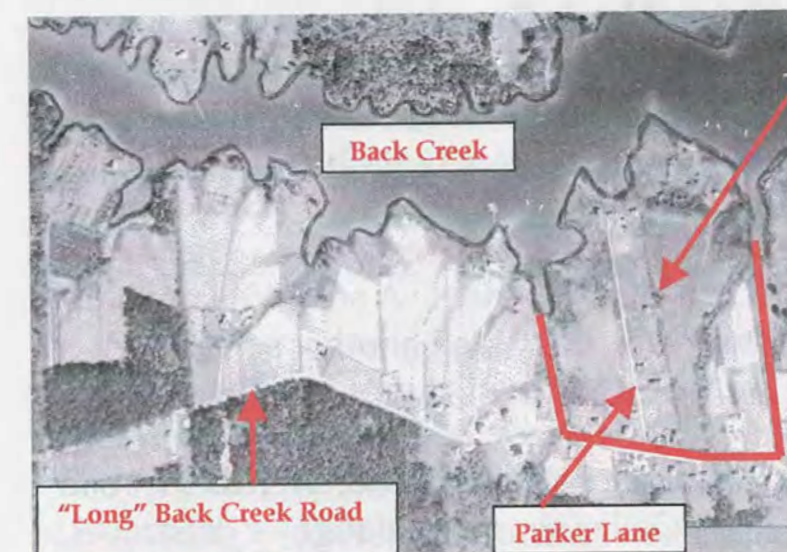
Samuel Hogg (Wormley Creek Plantation and his first wife Nancy Wright).

Many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Robert and Mary Wood settled in Crab Neck and Tampico areas. There are Wood descendents in Seaford today.

Gilbert Cluverius Family

In 1830 Gilbert and Jane Singleton Cluverius moved from Gloucester County to "long" Back Creek Road. They had eight children. One daughter, Jane (b. 1820), married William C. Parker and their children settled in that Back Creek section of Crab Neck.

Another daughter, Harriett (b. 1825), married Robert Harris in 1841. It is believed that Robert Harris also came from Gloucester.



When the Cluverius estate was settled in 1850, the records indicate that Robert and Harriett bought in the eighty acre Cluverius farm. The land extended from Back Creek Road to Back Creek itself, straddling what today is Parker Lane.

A son of Robert and Harriett Cluverius Harris, Thomas S. Harris, was born in 1870 in this area of Crab Neck. This is the same Thomas Harris described in the Harris Grove section. To pursue his law practice in 1904 he needed an office. He chose the crossroads where York- Hampton Highway intersected Hornsbysville (Tampico, Crab Neck) Road. As indicated above, William Goffigan had a thriving mercantile business and saloon at the time, signifying that there was much activity at that intersection. Thomas opened a small country store and the Tampico Post Office in 1892. Thomas' father became postmaster in 1898 and his wife, Mary, postmistress in 1899.

The Goffigan property went up for sale in 1905 when Mrs. Goffigan died. They had no children. William Goffigan was involved in state politics and died in 1909. The Harrises purchased the Goffigan property. Alfred Harris, Thomas' brother, and Alfred's wife became residents of the large dwelling section of the Goffigan building. The small country store closed and Alfred Harris became the proprietor of a rather large general mercantile business. Alfred was appointed postmaster of Tampico in 1901. They had no children.

Meanwhile, Thomas Harris built his own Victorian residence and the adjoining law office. In time, the other two-story store building served as a storage facility until it was razed. Apparently the small country store was reopened and Sheildie, the son of Thomas, and Sheildie's family ran the store and post office, and their living quarters were in the back of the store.

The area became known as Harris Grove.

Leroy Hornsby Family

William and Maria Burt Hornsby purchased four acres of the aforementioned Cluverius property on Back Creek Road. They were next door neighbors to the Crab Neck Harrises. A son, William, had a thriving and productive store in Seaford, and another son Robert had a small grocery store farther up the road. Leroy, another son, married Sudie Shields from Goodwin Neck, and they had a home at the corner of Wolf Trap Road and Hornbyville Road. Across the road lived Marcellus and Rosa Hogg Callis; she was a daughter of Samuel and Maria Hogg. Their dwelling house and general country store was on part of the original Hogg-owned Wormley Creek Plantation.

Leroy Hornsby opened a general merchandise store directly across the road from the Callis store, which soon closed operation. Marcellus Callis was more interested in handling and shipping oysters to Baltimore. He was a stockholder in the First National Bank in Yorktown, housed in the old Custom House.

For eleven years the Tampico Post Office was in Harris Grove. In 1902 Leroy Hornsby was appointed postmaster and operation of the post office shifted down the road to the L.A. Hornsby Store.

Recognizing the need for postal service in Harris Grove, Thomas Harris contacted the national headquarters for postal services and a new Harris Grove Post Office opened within a few weeks, and Thomas was the postmaster. The post office was located in the general store at the crossroads of Old York-Hampton and Hornsbyville Roads.

Two different times it was rumored that the Harris Grove Post Office would close and residents served by the Tampico Post Office, but Thomas Harris, being a lawyer, interceded for the local Harris Grove area people. His daughter, Annie Harris, was appointed postmistress in 1915 and she served for eight years.

The Tampico Post Office continued to serve residents at the intersection of Wolf Trap Road and Hornbyville Road. In 1921 Leroy Hornsby petitioned the U.S. Post Office Department requesting that the name of the post office be changed to Hornsbyville from Tampico. It seems strange, with only one Hornsby family of four persons, that the Post Office Department would approve a change to the name of this admired and historical section of York County.

Richard Garrett Family

Richard Garrett married Mary Moreland in 1774 and they resided at Marlbank (called York River Plantation). They had eight children. Richard Garrett, Jr. inherited the homestead.

In 1789 Richard Jr. acquired 175 acres from Bailey Seaton and Nancy Tabb, property that formerly belonged to John Goodwin, bounded on the west by John Lester, Edmund Chisman and Colonel John Goodwin. The Tabbs came into possession of the land through an inheritance of Nancy (Moss) from her Grandfather Edward Moss. It was from this tract that the Grafton Baptist Church received land from Garrett for a meetinghouse and a burial ground. See the Cockletown Corridor Section.

Richard R. Garrett, III lived at Marlbank. He married Lauretta Winder. He was educated at the College of William and Mary and he was the Senator who represented York County in the General Assembly. The Federal style Marlbank House was built in 1837 for \$675.00. His will was probated in 1855. In 1864, General McClellan's



John Stedman Family

Between the Hogg's Wormley Creek Plantation and Garrett's York River Plantation (present-day Marlbank Farms) there was another homestead (present-day Marlbank Cove). In 1810, the owner was John Stedman and the census record shows that he had four children, and John and his wife are between the ages of 26 and 45. However, John died before 1827 based on a record of a Hogg transaction of property. Apparently the Stedmans lived a relatively short time in York County.

Phillip Dedman Family / Lewis Hogg Family

Phillip Dedman, Jr., son of Phillip Dedman, Sr., married Mary Fuller before 1769, and their plantation bounded the York-Hampton Highway. In fact, part of their holdings joined Marlbank Farm, but most of their holdings were on the western side of the highway. The will of Phillip Jr. was proved in 1802. The land and house were left to his wife, Mary, and after her death to be equally divided between three of their daughters. Mary Dedman remarried but soon died and the estate became the possession of the Dedman daughters.

Lewis Hogg (b. 1773, d. 1852), from Gloucester County, moved to York County. He married Nancy Wright in 1801 and began to

Union forces seized the house for use as a field hospital for the more than 100,000 Union soldiers encamped in Marlbank and Yorktown. The farmhouse and 557 acres passed to the Timothy Mulcahy family in 1887. Thomas Harris and his descendents rented the farm to themselves and others who recall that two elderly ladies from New York owned the property. Leslie R. O'Hara bought the property in 1945.

purchase land. An indenture dated 1809 between the Hogs and Anderson and Susanna Freeman of Richmond shows rental of a 25-acre tract of land on which Phillip Dedman formerly lived. In 1811 Lewis Hogg purchased part (1/3) of the Dedman farm from Peyton Southall who had bought it from Susanna Dedman Anderson. The property was on the east by Southall, west by Thomas Patrick, north by Mary Dedman (a daughter of Phillip Dedman), and south by Southall. In 1812, Mary Anderson sold to Lewis Hogg 25 acres. There are two assumptions here: Mary Dedman married Anderson and the original Phillip Dedman property was 75 acres. In 1818, Lewis Hogg bought 18 acres from Robert and Mary Gibbons, 10 acres on the other side of York Hampton Highway, bounded on the north by the highway, east by Gibbons, south by Southall (deceased), and west by Thomas Patrick. The other 8 acres were at the upper end of the plantation formerly held by Phillip Dedman.

In 1838, Lewis Hogg purchased 135 ½ acres from the Southalls bounded at a corner of what had been Dedman land and extended to Stedmans's line. At this time, Lewis Hogg had a total of 203 ½ acres on each side of York Hampton Highway.

With progression of the Civil War and encampment on land of that area by Federal troops from Fort Monroe, the Lewis Hogg family left their homes and temporarily located in Richmond. After the war when Mrs. Hogg and her small son returned to their farm, they found nothing. Everything was gone. During Reconstruction when land was being confiscated and sold, somehow the Hogg farmland remained in the family because a son, Alexander, inherited the land.

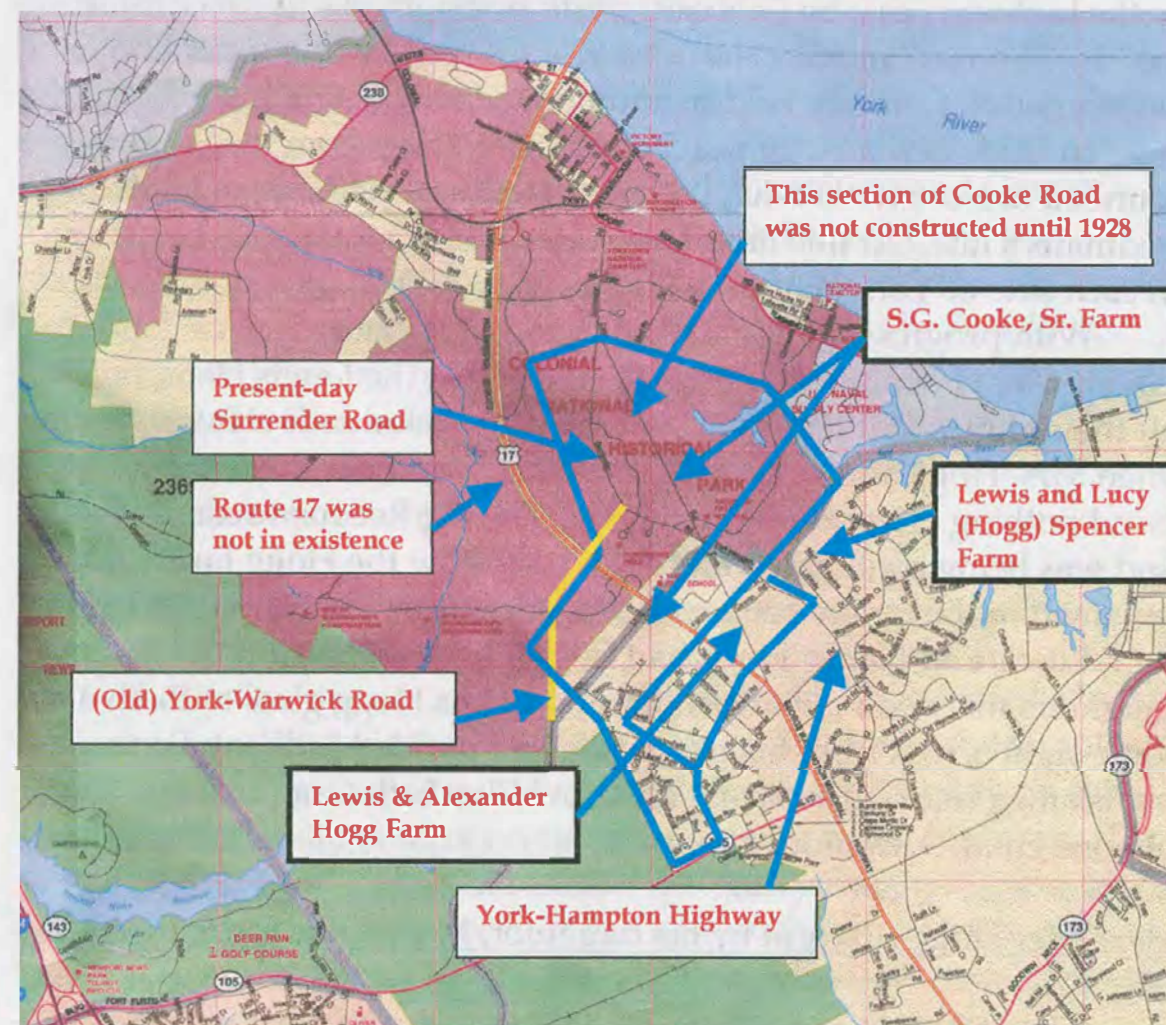
Lewis and Nancy Hogg had five children. One of the daughters married Lewis Spencer, and Lewis Hogg gave to them a home sight across from his plantation and beside Marlbank Farm. Lewis Hogg married secondly a widow Elizabeth Campbell and they had one child, Alexander Hogg.

Alexander Hogg (Excerpt by his daughter, Mary Lulie Hogg)

Alexander Hogg was born in 1830 on a farm near Yorktown, Virginia. Both his father and mother, Lewis and Elizabeth, were of gentle blood. He was a child of their mature years, longed for and

welcomed. As a farm boy, Alexander plowed in the summer, but in the winter pursued his studies at an old fashioned Academy. With but few subjects, Latin, Greek and Mathematics, and the severest regime as to thoroughness, the long vanished Academy produced thinkers, rather than scholars.

One day, he paused with his hand on the plow, struck the plow handle with resolution and decided this plowing was no longer for him, and he was going to seek whatever education was available, and seek it soon. Perhaps someone else plowed the next furrow in that field. Money for college came from teaching (tutoring) and surveying. He built a log schoolhouse nearby to where he enrolled into Randolph Macon College from which he graduated in 1854.



During his second year of college his father died and Alexander came into possession of the farm. Although Alexander's interest was never

centered in the farm, he could not be induced to part with it until he was past eighty years of age (1910). Alexander's whole life was dedicated to education, with various professorships at different locations during which time he earned advanced degrees (M.A., L.L.D.). He became known as the father of the Fort Worth, Texas Public School System where he was superintendent. He died in 1911.

Lewis Spencer Family

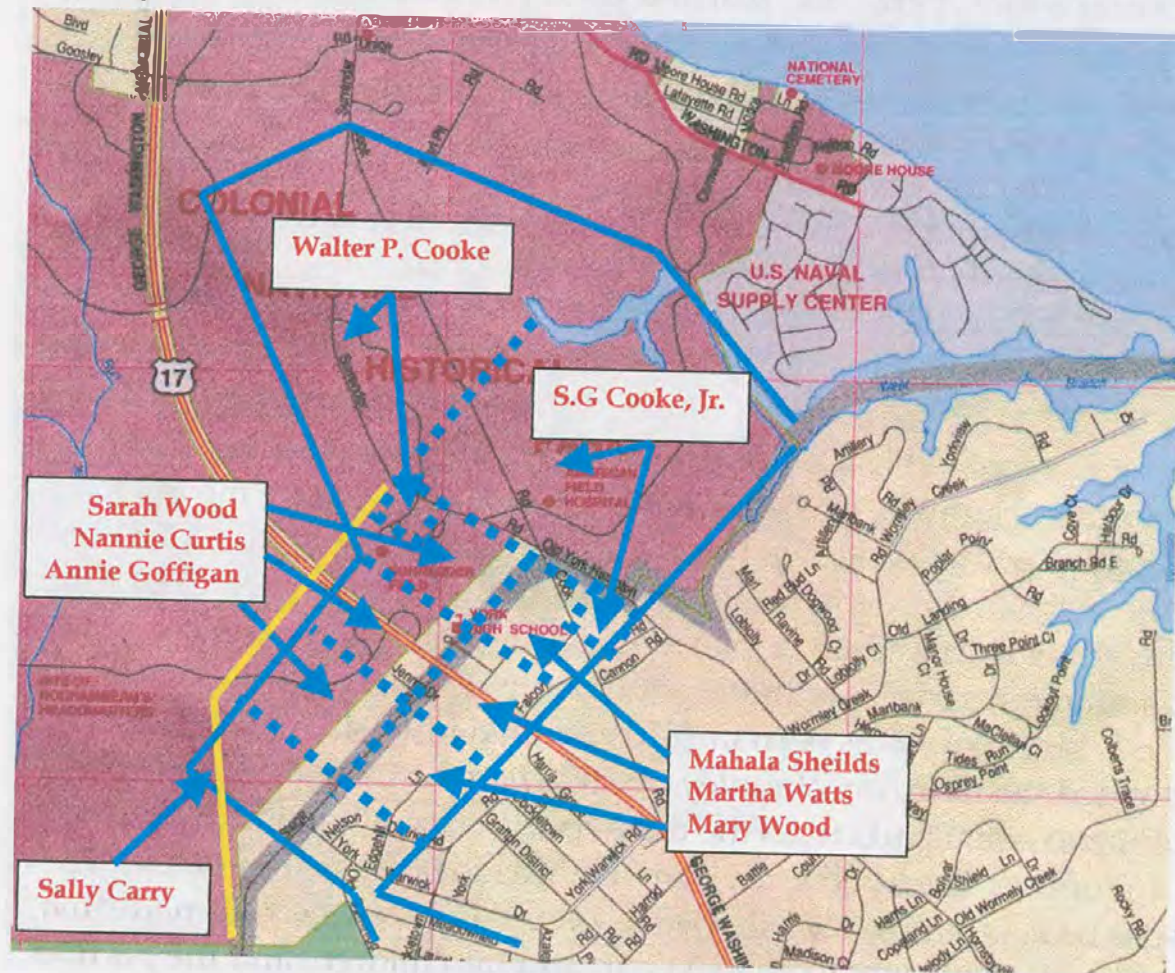
Lewis and Nancy Hogg had five children. One of the daughters married Lewis Spencer, and Lewis Hogg gave to the Spencers a home sight across from his plantation, along York-Hampton Highway, and beside Marlbank Farm. One of the Spencer's sons, Benjamin, married Ellen Wornom and they had a son Benjamin D. Spencer. Benjamin Spencer died and his widow, Ellen, married John H. Dillard who left most of the estate to his stepson Benjamin D. Spencer. Benjamin D. Spencer was the father of Harry Spencer and the grandfather of Julia Spencer Myers who owned the tract, at the head of Chisman Creek and Seaford Road, and it was developed into Port Myers.

Stafford Gibbs Cooke

Stafford Gibbs Cooke owned a large farm off the York-Hampton Highway in the present-day Tabb area, but he moved his family closer to Yorktown before the Civil War. During the Civil War, when the Federal troops encamped on the farm, Mrs. Cooke hid under her skirt, the silver-plated tankard, chalice and plate used for communion services at the Grafton Baptist Church.

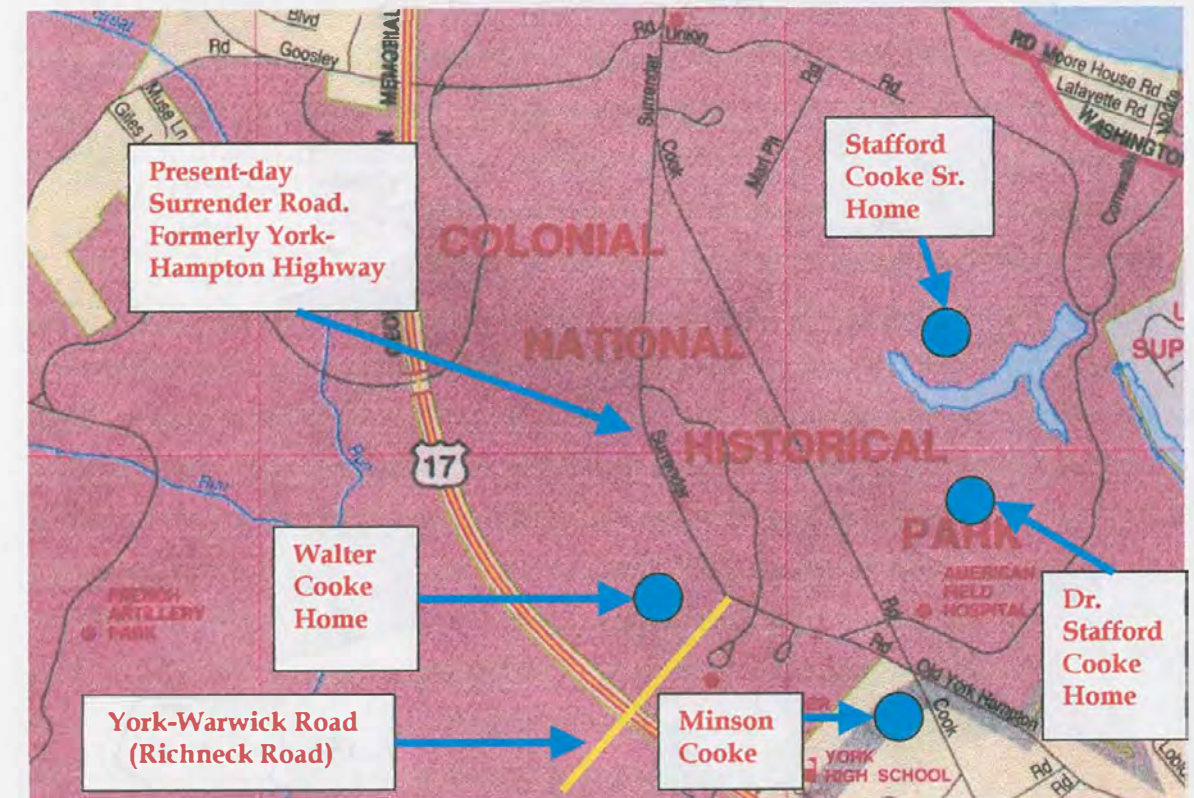
Mr. Cooke was born in 1820 and died in 1894. In his will he divided the farm, on Wormley Creek where he lived (called Gibbons) into two equal parts from the main road to the millpond at the head of Wormley Creek. The division line was to be agreed upon by two sons S.G., Jr. and Walter Patrick Cooke. After the line was made, the part on the east was to go to S.G. Jr. and his children, and the portion on the west to Walter and his children.

Additionally, Walter received 8 acres of the farm known as Edge Hill, the 8 acres being laid off from the northwest corner at the intersection of York-Hampton Highway and Richneck (Seige) Road, an equal distance on each road. Stafford Jr. received 8 acres of the farm known as Edge Hill being laid off on the York-Hampton Highway commencing at the northeast corner and extending up the road towards Yorktown a distance of 4 acres and extending back 2 acres. Sally Cary received, for her lifetime, the southwest corner of the Edge Hill farm bounded by the corner lines and the road extending across the corner. At the death of Sally Cary the land reverted to Cooke's daughter Martha (Watts). The remainder of the Edge Hill farm he gave to daughters Annie Goffigan, Mary Wood, Sarah Wood, Mahala Sheilds, Nannie Curtis and Martha Watts in equal parts.



As can be seen by the map above, the property that belonged to S.G. Cooke, Sr. is now part of the National Park Service. Dr. Stafford

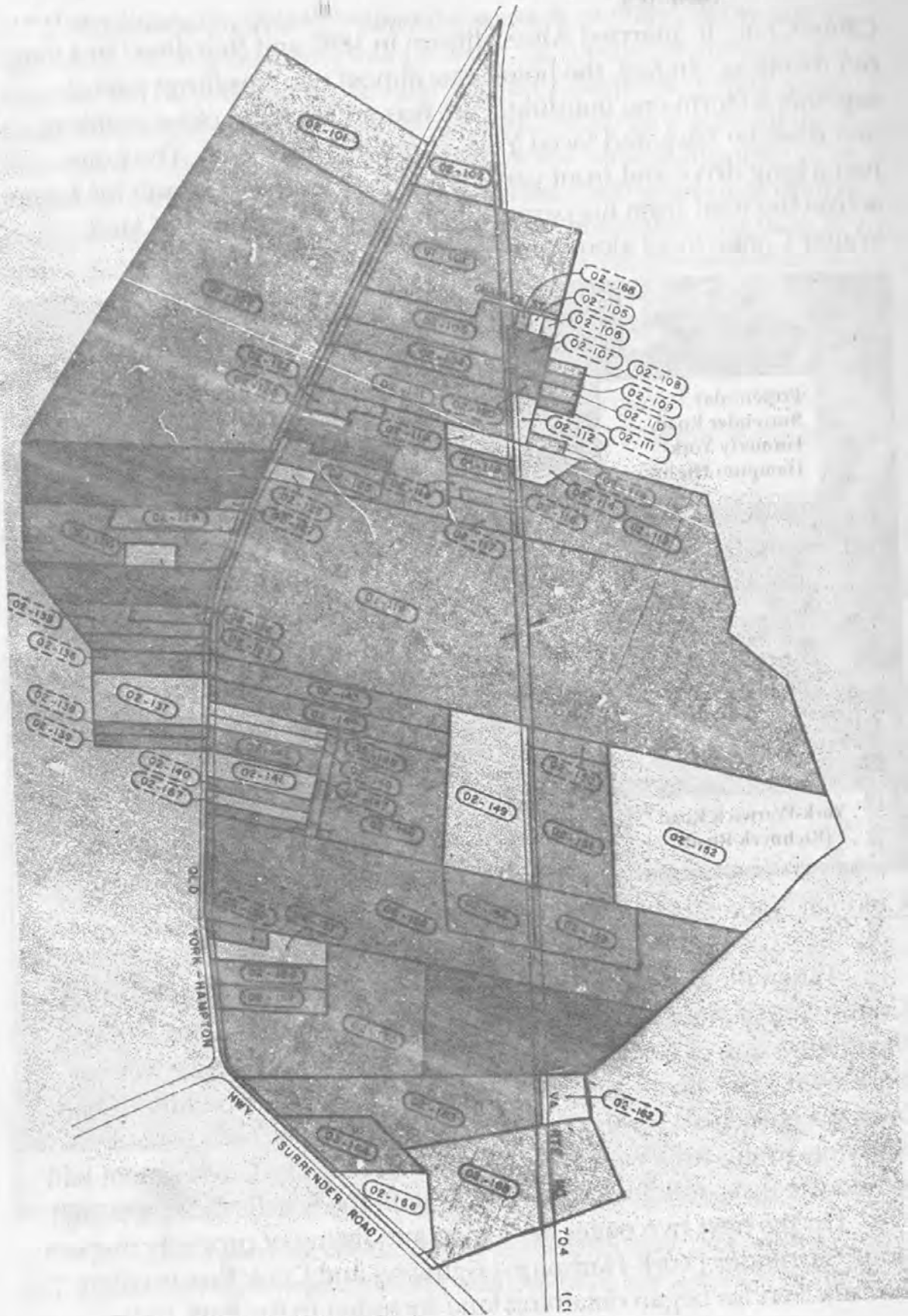
Gibbs Cook, Jr. married Alice Minson in 1892 and they lived in a very old dwelling. In fact, the home was almost two dwellings joined together to form one building. Part was added to an older building, and it set far back and faced York-Hampton Highway. The house had a long drive and front yard. Minson Cooke, a son, built his home across the road from his parents, but on a different tract of land. Walter Cooke lived along present-day Surrender Road.



Colonial National Historical Park

When the Federal Government decided to make a part of York County into a National Park, the Park Service chose that area from the intersection of Cook Road and York-Hampton Highway to Yorktown. This area was condemned and taken over because it had been the battlefield for the Revolutionary War. The owners and residents in this area were mostly colored folk. The Government had to relocate these folk to other areas, as with the Schells (See page 163).

On the next two pages are a map and listing of property owners along Surrender (York-Hampton Highway) and Cook Roads when the Park Service began obtaining land included in the Park today.



Tract	Owner	Acres	Tract	Owner	Acres
101	Harris Estate	5.08	135	Becker	1.50
102	Richardson	3.05	136	Brown	1.00
103	Grace Episc. Church	1.90	137	Shannon Estate	2.00
104	York Gardens Dev.	4.51	138	Hopson	0.50
105	Callis	0.11	139	York County School	0.50
106	Mathews	0.11	140	Campbell	0.50
107	Billups	0.75	141	Carr Estate	1.00
108	Dae	0.17	142	Boney	1.00
109	Fletcher	0.17	143	Renforth	2.50
110	Wilkerson Estate	0.17	144	O'Hara	2.50
111	Carter	0.17	145	Segars	0.50
112	Washington	0.44	146	McDaniel	0.50
113	Harrod	0.17	147	Campbell	0.50
114	Washington	0.73	148	Harrod	5.50
115	Fletcher	7.28	149	York County	4.61
116	East. Nat. Park Mon	0.25	150	Sheild	0.63
117	Ziegler	1.00	151	Dunnwaite Corp.	3.86
118	Fletcher	0.56	152	Harrell	10.00
119	Lewis	1.00	153	Dela	2.00
120	Johnson	0.50	154	Martin	2.00
121	McIntyre	3.17	155	Fauntleroy	13.54
122	East. Park Assoc.	0.70	156	East. Nat. Park Mon.	0.50
123	Thomas Muse	0.23	157	Hargis	1.14
124	Lewis	0.70	158	Lewis	1.25
125	O'Hara	3.58	159	Washington	1.14
126	Clarke	0.25	160	O'Hara	7.19
127	Williams	0.11	161	Yeatman Estate	6.75
128	Williams	5.89	162	McNorton	0.95
129	Williams	1.00	163	York Gardens Dev.	13.22
130	Williams	3.54	164	Hornsby	3.70
131	Williams	0.46	165	Meyers	6.52
132	Becker	1.00	166	Willis, et al	2.00
133	Green	1.00	167	Carter	0.50
134	Washington	2.50	168	Becker	0.11

One Day While Driving to College By Thelma Hansford

During the 1927-28 school year, sister Estele and I commuted daily to the College of William and Mary. We drove over the York-Hampton Highway to Yorktown where two additional students joined us. We traveled a long route, for the only road to Williamsburg then was Route 60. We college girls drove along York Road past Lackey and the Naval Mine Depot to Lebanon Church where there was a by-route leading across the railroad tracks (no train signals) to Route 60.

Before the session ended in June, a new road bisected the Cooke farm for the National Park Service was purchasing all of the land surrounding Yorktown. This land is where the American Colonial forces fought the British and won American independence.

In the spring of that year (1928), before the road was given a hard surface, we two Seaford girls drove over that new road. The following weekend, when our father washed the family car – four door sedan – he noticed a dent up front, which we had carefully hidden with mud from that new, unpaved Cooke Road. We accidentally slid into a Gray Hound Bus in front of Carter's Grove. I used the brakes, but the car kept sliding until we bumped.

Those people who lived along what later was renamed Surrender Road knew that we passed there daily. One morning a colored lady was standing beside the road, accompanied with a little boy, probably three years old. They needed a ride to Lee Hall. We accommodated her, and instead of turning at Lebanon Church, we drove to the Lee Hall Train Station. On the lapel of the little boy's coat a tag had been secured. It was the child's name and destination in Philadelphia. That afternoon enroute home from our studies, the same woman, standing in front of her home, stopped us. She had a half-gallon fruit jar full of sweet milk and a large head of cabbage. I don't know how she returned to Surrender Road from Lee Hall, but probably with the mail carrier. Times were different then; people were friendlier and they did trust one another.

David Yeatman Family

There was a colored family, the David Yeatman family, who lived on the York-Hampton Highway, near the intersection of present-day Cook Road and Route 17. He built his home across the road from present-day York High School athletic field. He owned a bright green express wagon and a team of horses. He was in the delivery business. Daily, and beginning early in the morning, he met the Baltimore Steamer at Yorktown. Products were shipped in wooden boxes, crates and barrels, and David filled his wagon with these, seated himself on the high seat, and traveled the old roads making deliveries to the many General Stores throughout the middle part of York County. In Harris Grove, there were several stores along Hornbyville Road. In Seaford there was C.J. Slaights, Gaston Wornom's and Billy Hornsby. In Grafton there were many stores along York-Hampton Highway. It was easy to recognize David Yeatman's rig with the pretty horses and wagon.

Closed Church Scene of Burial for Mrs. Gage By Elizabeth Ironmonger

The body of Mrs. Martha Lavenia Gage, who died last week, was carried back to her former home in Magruder, now Camp Peary, for burial beside her late husband in the cemetery of the closed Magruder Presbyterian Church last week.

In 1942 the Magruder area of York County was bought by the United States Government and made into a Sea Bee's naval base. It was estimated that approximately 40,000 men were stationed at Camp Peary during World War II. It continued as a Sea Bee base until 1946.

According to information at the York County Clerk's Office, Camp Peary embraced almost 11,000 acres. Several hundred persons had to make their homes elsewhere when the property was purchased by the Federal Government.

The family names of the area included Graves, Mahone, Hansford, Gage, Timberlake, Powers, Bingley, and Maynard. All had to move.

When the Sea Bee base was deactivated, the area continued under the control of the Navy but an arrangement was worked out whereby the Commonwealth of Virginia used it as a Game Preserve from 1946-1951.

The camp was reactivated in 1951 and became the United States Experimental Training Facility.

Mrs. Gage and an unmarried son, displaced by the Navy, settled in Dandy. Later she made her home with her son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. William Owens, also in Dandy, until her recent hospitalization and death.



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- *Footprints*, by E. L. Morris
- *The History of Seaford 1642-1957*, by Alice R. Dickinson and historians of the Seaford Woman's Club
- *Virginia Place Names, Derivations, Historical Uses*, by Raus McDill Hanson
- *York County History, What's in a Name*
- *York County's Grafton*, by Ralph Meredith/Janice Meredith Wood
- *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants 1623-1666*, by Nell Nugent
- *York County Historical Series, York's 200 Years of Postal Service* by Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger/Dick Ivy
- *An Early Landmark*, by Thelma Ironmonger Hansford
- *Our Original Homestead - The Back Creek Plantation* by Thelma Ironmonger Hansford
- *Adventures of Purse and Person* by Annie Lash Jester
- *Ironmonger and Connections - Updated* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *Seaford, York County, Virginia, Some Reflections* by Thelma Ironmonger Hansford
- *The Ironmongers and the Land* by Thelma Ironmonger Hansford
- *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War* by Maj. George B Davis, Leslie J. Perry, Joseph W. Kirkley. Compiled by Calvin D. Cowles
- *York County Historical Series, Grafton Keeps Fading* by Dick Ivy
- *Map of Certain Lands in York County VA. Essential to Harwoods Mill Water Development* by Old Dominion Land Company, dated 1919
- *The Soldier in our Civil War* by Frank Leslie
- *1857 Historical Map* from the NOAA database



Early 1950s: The Coleman Bridge is under construction. In the upper far right the Yorktown - Gloucester ferry is shown on its way to Yorktown. The original photo belonged to Mrs. Franklin of Grafton.

Further Reading

- *Thomas James (Clerk of Kingston Parish, 1783-96), Ancestry and Descendants, 1653 - 1961* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *Hogg Family of York and Gloucester Counties, Virginia* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *Three Courageous Women and Their Kin, A Pescud Genealogy* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *Couch - Sparrow - Sparrer* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *John Winder and Descendants of Maryland and Virginia* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *Some Lindsays of Virginia, 1976, Revision 1997* by Elizabeth Ironmonger and Jean Feller
- *Montgomery Genealogy* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *Thomas DeAlba Sr. and Descendants* by Elizabeth Ironmonger
- *The Wynne Family of York, Warwick, and James City Counties, Virginia* by Myles Johnson
- *Moss Family* by Thelma Hansford, 1967
- *Accounts of Some Families in York County, Virginia* by Thelma Hansford
- *Powell, An Early York County, Virginia Family* by Thelma Hansford
- *Moreland* by Thelma Hansford

All of the books above - some published and some unpublished - are available in the York County Library, York County, Virginia.

- *The History of the Grafton Baptist Church, 1777 - 1977* by Robert L. Saunders, Jr.



Circa 1910



Old Fly



**Home of Samuel and Maria Hogg
Old Wormley Creek Road**